LH5
M3a

Impact of climate change uncertain
Page 4

John Wilkes Booth, actor and assassin
Page 14

High-sticking on a double-word score for 58 years.

MARTLET

Thursday, March 16, 2006 | The University of Victoria's Independent Newspaper | www.martlet.ca | Volume 58, Issue 25

THEMS FIGHTIN WORDS

Competitive Scrabble
Page 22

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

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Disqualifications could seat Akouri as UVSS chair

by Micah Luxen

The race for chair of the UVic Students Society (UVSS) took an unexpected turn after the polls closed March 10. Complaints about electoral policy violations lead to the disqualifications of two of the three candidates.

Current chair Penny Beames and Mike Waters were taken out of the running by rulings from chief electoral officer Ben Johnson, leaving Chadi Akouri as the lone candidate. Both Beames and Waters are appealing Johnson's rulings.

Waters was disqualified for campaigning alongside Access UVic's General Director Orion Carrier, which Johnson ruled was a prohibited third-party endorsement.

"Mike Waters and Orion Carrier campaigned together, giving students the impression that it was the case that [Carrier] was advocating for [Students for Students] on behalf of Access UVic," said Johnson in his response to an appeal Waters made regarding the decision.

According to the official UVSS electoral policy manual, third-party endorsements are grounds for disqualification. And while three witnesses testified that Carrier did not explicitly identify himself as endorsing Waters' campaign on behalf of Access UVic, they did have a strong general impression that this was the case.

Access UVic, however, claims that when Carrier gave public support for Waters, it was not as a representative of Access UVic.

"Section B.4 of the UVSS electoral policy defines third-party endorsement to mean 'official support from a recognized on-campus group,'" said Pavel Boubnov, president of Access UVic.

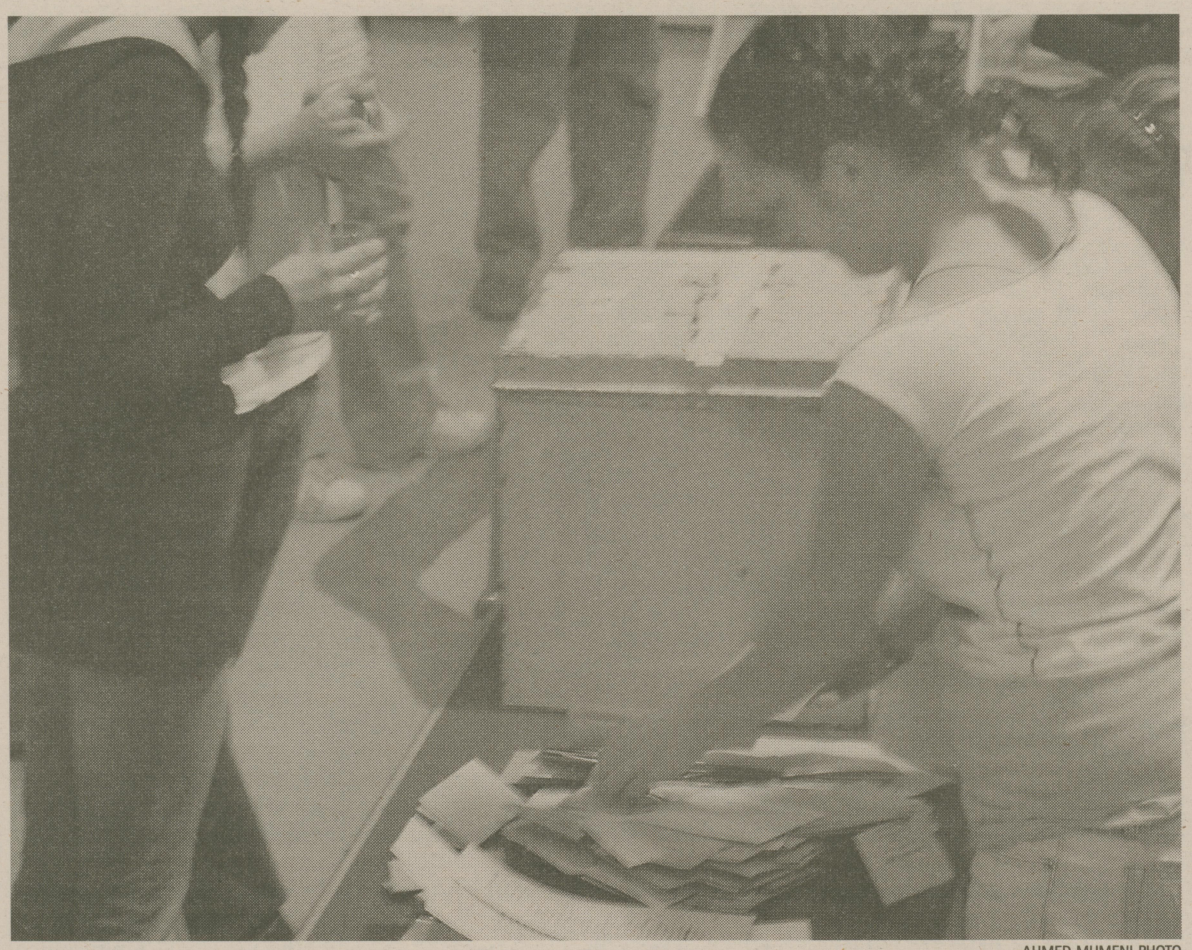
"Neither I, nor our director, [nor] our official spokesperson, has endorsed one candidate or another at any time. No one else in Access UVic has authority to speak on behalf of Access UVic, and no one has been requested to speak on behalf of Access UVic."

The disqualification also came as a surprise to Waters because Johnson had initially given him the impression that he would not be disqualified.

"When I went and spoke to [Johnson] unofficially, he told me I would just be disciplined and he even states that in his letter, and for whatever reason he doesn't explain why he changed his mind," Waters said. "He told me explicitly I would not be disqualified, I would be disciplined."

In a letter to the concerned parties, Johnson wrote, "I initially gave a different informal answer as to disqualification for a few reasons." The reasons included pressure from both candidates to make a decision and the fact that he wanted the ruling out before polls closed and ballots got counted.

"[However], once I had the time to properly review all the evidence and analyze it in light of the electoral policy manual, I was inexorably drawn to the conclusion that Mike Waters should be disqualified. . . . I apologize to Mr. Waters for the discrepancy between my informal assurance and my official ruling and I recognize the intense frustration that Mr. Waters must feel in regards to this," Johnson wrote.



AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

Members of the UVSS elections office were on hand to count ballots alongside watchful candidates and scrutineers after the polls closed March 10.

Penny Beames is appealing her disqualification for campaigning within sight of a polling station, which is prohibited.

"I will not comment on my disqualification or my plans for appeal until all avenues of appeal have been exhausted," said Beames.

The appeals will first go before an electoral committee composed of two UVSS board members. Their decision may be appealed to the UVSS board of directors, whose ruling is final. If the decisions are appealed to the board, current board members Beames and Akouri will not be allowed to vote in the decision.

The first hearing with the electoral committee is likely to be on Monday, March 20, but might happen earlier.

The results of the chairperson race will not be released until the appeals process is completed. The votes have been tallied, but even the electoral officers do not know the results.

Johnson believes it is important that the electoral policy is closely followed. "This ensures a smooth democratic transition from one board to the next and it ensures that the elections are conducted in a fair, dignified, and transparent manner," he said.

"This is in the best interest of not only the candidates, but the student population at large."

Not everyone agrees, however. "I don't believe that either myself or Penny Beames . . . should be disqualified," said Waters. "Chairperson should be decided by the voters, not by disqualification."

ELECTION RESULTS

CHAIR*

Chadi Akouri	0
Penny Beames	0
Mike Waters	0

*Results withheld pending resolution of disqualifications.

FINANCE

Jamie Strachan	1194
Kyle Vucko	857
David Haley Hop Wo	549

ACADEMICS

Jeremy David Peters	1208
Jonny Morris	1070
Dale Cope	308

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Scott Antaya	642
Kelly Clark	471

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

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Allison Chan	953
Maggi Gyuricska	917
Kienan Hamm	890
Sara Postle	878
Conrad Field	873
Janet Shivas	839
Alex Chang	831
Rakhi Bhatnagar	801
Trenton Crawford	795
Erin Sikora	774
Joe Akerman	748
Naomi Devine	722
Rob Cook	707
Joe Kruger	703
Francesca Carbonneau	702
Becky Jackson	689
Edward Pullman	681
Richard Park	655
Richard Butler-Smythe	587
Kyliah Clarkson	565
Avery Berman	538
Maegan Newell	188

REFERENDUM

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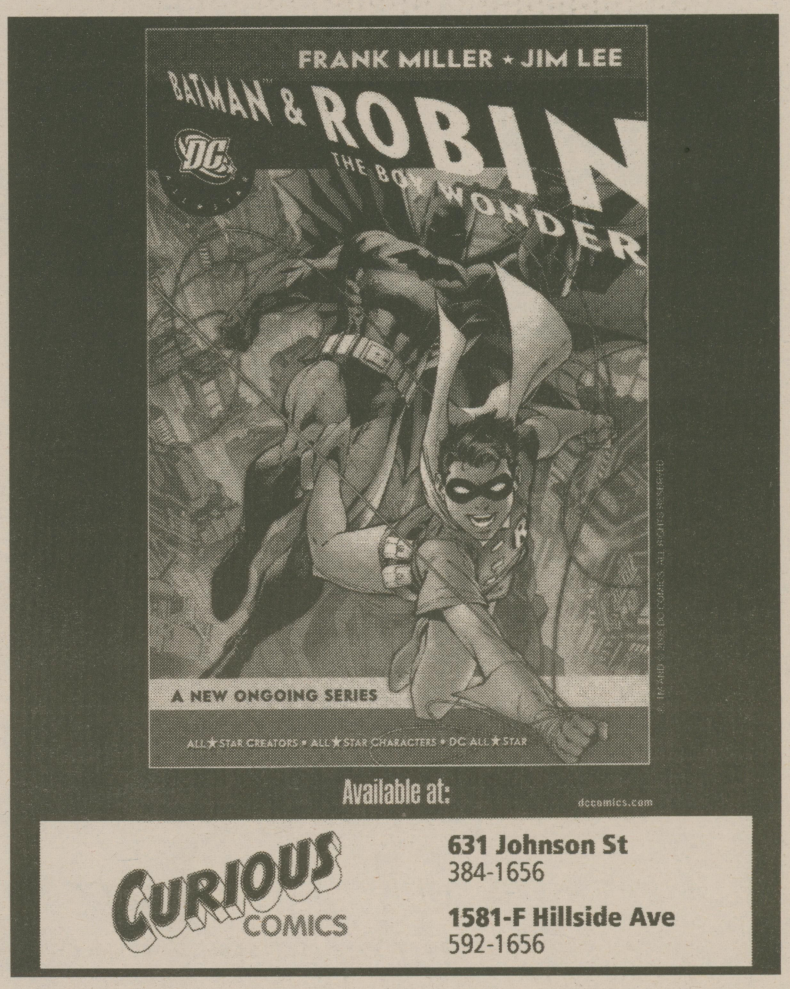

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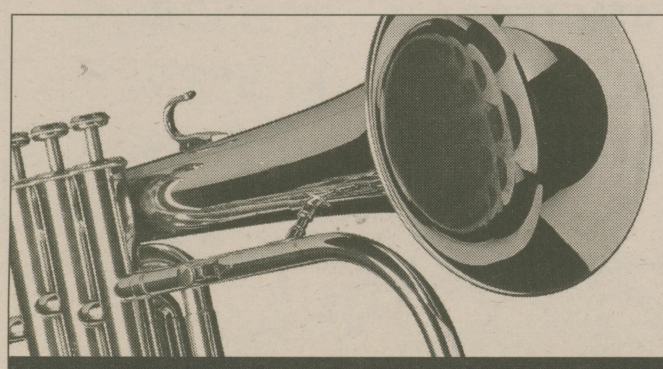

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Climate change forces Canada to examine Arctic policy

by Bryna Hallam

PROVIDED PHOTO

There has been a 25 per cent reduction in the area covered by sea-ice in the Arctic in the last 30 years.

The debate over the Northwest Passage may be premature, according to a scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

Scientists and politicians have warned that the passage, which is 7,000 kilometres shorter than the current Europe-to-Asia route through the Panama Canal, could present sovereignty problems for Canada if it becomes open to ships from other countries.

Over the last three decades, there has been a 25 per cent reduction—about two million square kilometres—in the area covered by sea-ice in the Arctic.

This reduction is expected to result in less ice moving into the Northwest Passage, which could open up the area to boats. In fact, a report prepared for the U.S. Navy five years ago predicted "within five to 10 years, the Northwest Passage will be open to non-ice-strengthened vessels for at least one month each summer."

But as Humfrey Melling, a research scientist with the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, points out, the future is not all that clear.

"There are three possible futures for the Arctic. We could have an easier seaway if the climate models are correct, we could have little change, or we could have increased difficulty," he said at UVic's International and Human Rights Law Association's annual conference, titled Canada's Changing Arctic: Sovereignty at Stake.

"I think if you're thinking about what to do about the Northwest Passage, we're not really in a position to rule out any of the options. People have to keep in mind that it's not 100 per cent certain we're going to have an ice-free Northwest Passage."

The problem, Melling said, is that future forecasts are based on statistics, and "it takes a long time to get any statistical reliability from them."

In addition, computer-generated climate models show variation in their predictions.

"In my mind, this creates a certain level of anxiety about these future predictions," he said. This anxiety is increased by how models simulate the current climate, which underestimate the current ice thickness, Melling said. At the very least, he said, this could affect how long it takes the ice to melt.

"Anyone knows that if you want to melt something, the more of it you have, the longer it takes to melt."

The temperature in the Arctic has been rising at a rate three times faster than the rest of the globe. Since 1900, the average temperature has risen two degrees. The western Arctic has seen an increase of 2.5 degrees in the last 30 years.

But according to Melling, the relationship between climate increases and melting ice is not definitive.

"The correlation between warming and shrinking of ice packs does suggest they're related; however, scientists are not quite sure how to draw the connection."

This is in part due to the fact that air temperature is only one factor that impacts ice melting and formation. Other factors include water temperature and weather.

For the Northwest Passage itself, data collected by the Canadian Ice Service over the last 35 years shows variation in the amount of ice, but does not show an overall trend of decreasing ice.

"Although we've lost ice from the Alaskan and Siberian sides of the Arctic, the ice is still pretty much pushed up hard along the Canadian coast and there's not a great deal of change in that area," said Melling.

For the time being, the Northwest Passage remains tough going for ships, even high-powered icebreakers. A Swedish ship made the trip from Resolute Bay to Cambridge Bay in July 2005, averaging three knots per hour through the ice, compared to 15–18 knots in the open sea. Not only was it a slow trip, it was likely expensive as well. Melling estimates fuel costs could have been as high as $50,000 per day.

"With a challenge like that for shipping, even in the summer months, commercial companies are going to think twice about sending a vessel through there," he said.

Building community

by David Karp

What do making bio-diesel, learning sign language and silk-screening T-shirts have in common?

They were all part of fACT, the festival of Action in CommuniTies held March 13–16 in the SUB. The festival featured 14 workshops over three days and four evenings.

"We're attempting to engage people in their community through a variety of workshops," said Greg Awai, director of the Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group, which helped organize the event.

The festival kicked off Monday evening with spoken-word and hip-hop performances at Vertigo, featuring the hip-hop stylings of Vancouver MC Ndidi Cascade. "People had a lot of fun," said Loren Husband, the UVic Students Society director of academics.

On March 14, the festival hosted Kenji James Fuse, who demonstrated how to make bio-diesel fuel using easy-to-find materials. Access UVic, an advocacy group for students with disabilities, gave a workshop on sign language basics, while volunteers from the Bike Lab Society were giving bike tune-ups.

Another workshop, held by Janet Cormier on March 15, featured a session about making herbal medicines from local herbs.

Filmmakers Courtney Kallas and Liz Simmons also screened their documentary, *Living Room*, which looks at the history of the politics of space and what it means to have a community space.

March 16 featured a performance by theatre students about disability and a silk-screening workshop.

fACT wraps up March 16 at 9 p.m. with a Dress as Your Favourite Activist social at Felicita's.

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International Women's Day sparks solidarity

Keynote speaker at women's event implores government to do more to find missing Canadian women

by Matthew Gauk

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Members of the Victoria group Women in Black held a silent vigil in Centennial Square March 2.

Victoria women's groups capped off International Women's Day March 8 with a celebration and forum at the Mungo Martin Longhouse next to the Royal B.C. Museum.

Kukdookaa Terri Brown of the Tahltan First Nation was the evening's keynote speaker. She was the first aboriginal president of the National Action Committee on the Status of Women and is the former president of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

"My history is that of an aboriginal woman in Canada," said Brown. "Very few of us escape violence, and very few of us escape racism. That is why I've dedicated my life to the protection of women."

Brown spearheaded the Sisters in Spirit campaign to draw attention to missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada.

She remembers explaining this, the most important issue of her life, to then-Prime Minister Paul Martin, only to see later on the CBC's news satire show *This Hour Has 22 Minutes* that he had nodded off during her talk.

The Sisters in Spirit campaign didn't really get off the ground until the Anglican Church took up the cause, Brown said, and the group was able to raise several million dollars.

Sisters in Spirit is particularly concerned about the "Highway of Tears", the road that runs from Prince George to Prince Rupert on which many women, most often aboriginal, have gone missing.

"I hope that it becomes an issue that's near and dear to everyone's heart," said Brown of Sisters in Spirit. "We're born with the burden of justice for all, of stopping violence against women."

Brown said her first step into aboriginal and women's rights was hesitant, as she wasn't sure at first if she wanted to be a feminist.

"But we have to honour our mothers for paving the way for us so that it's not as difficult," she said.

The longhouse get-together on March 8 was a collaboration between the Victoria Status of Women Group, the Coalition for Community Women, and the International Women's Rights Project (IWRP), which is affiliated with the Centre for Global Studies at UVic.

It also featured a panel presentation with three socially active women in Victoria, including Women of Distinction award winner Minneh Kamau, who is an AIDS education advocate and founder of the HIV/AIDS educational group SAN FAN (See A Need, Fill A Need), and Kinwa Bluesky, an artist and aboriginal law student at UVic.

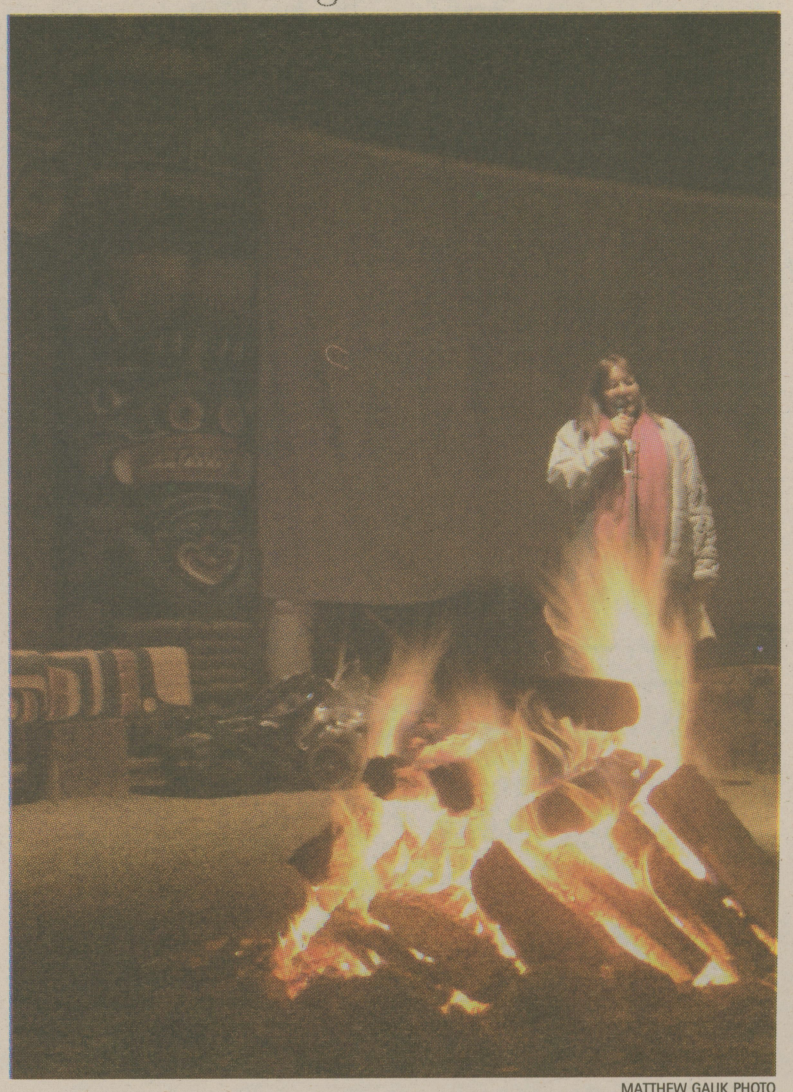
Some of the week's other activities around the city included a Women in Black silent vigil in Centennial Square, several celebrations of "herstory," an international workshop for women, a global women's strike, and fundraising events for women's rights in Afghanistan.

UVic student Ashley Heaslip helped organize the longhouse event on behalf of the IWRP, which was critical in bringing young people to the event.

"We had a bunch of people come out and there was a lot of emotion," said Heaslip. "I think people felt enriched after leaving it—they were able to contribute to the day."

International Women's day began being celebrated in the early 1900s and was adopted by the United Nations in 1975. Heaslip noted that in several countries, such as those in Scandinavia, International Women's Day is a national holiday. People take the day off of work and are able to reflect and celebrate the contributions of women and spend time with those women who are important in their lives.

"That's not the case in Canada yet, but maybe in the future it will be," she said.



MATTHEW GAUK PHOTO

Keynote speaker Kukdookaa Terri Brown of the Tahltan First Nation addressed a crowd of supporters at Mungo Martin longhouse March 8.

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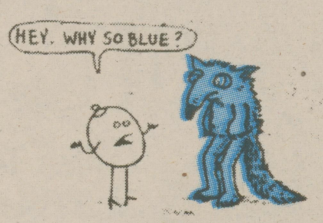

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LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Access UVic has been complaining all year that S-hut is an inadequate space for exam accomodations.

Chair regrets not consulting students

by Micah Luxen

Members of Access UVic and the UVic Students' Society (UVSS) deliberated over the issue of the "inadequate" S-Hut exam location for students with disabilities during the society's March 6 board meeting.

Students who require special exam arrangements have been complaining all year that S-Hut, the building on the fringe of campus where they are sent to take their exams, is too noisy, has heating problems and lacks wheelchair access to the washrooms.

UVSS chair Penny Beames was planning to table a motion that would allow the Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities (RCSD) to book rooms in the SUB for free.

But Access UVic, a campus advocacy group for students with disabilities, was concerned that Beames did not consult them before deciding to table the motion. Beames spoke instead with the RCSD, which is not an advocacy group, but rather a university-run service provider.

While members of Access UVic present at the meeting agreed that the move is a good idea, they demanded to be consulted on issues and motions that impact their ability to participate in the UVic community.

"Access will not tolerate [not being consulted], because the S-Hut issue would not have been on the agenda without very vocal members of Access bringing it to the attention of the *Martlet*, and speaking out about it on various committees and panel discussions," said Kyla Berry, Access UVic's volunteer co-ordinator. "One of the rallying cries of the disability rights movement has been, and still is, 'Nothing about us without us.'"

Beames' response was that Access was not consulted because relations between the UVSS board and the group have been "less than warm" over the past year. She went on to say that their heartfelt concern has taught her a lot about disability issues.

"Unfortunately, that learning process has not been very smooth and I regret at this point not consulting with Access UVic beforehand and having to hear that you support the idea [afterwards]."

Access' other concern was that Beames was tabling the motion as a publicity move right in the middle of campaigning to retain her job as chair of the UVSS.

Mike Waters and Chadi Akouri, Beames' two competitors in the race for UVSS chair, also voiced concern about the timing of the motion.

"I'm just curious to know why [the issue] was brought up during election week . . . if you knew about it in the summer," said Waters during a debate between the three candidates earlier that day.

According to Beames, she and UVSS director of finance Shamus Reid met with Laurie Keenan from the Resource Centre for Students with Disabilities and made the offer of SUB exam space to Keenan on Feb. 9, "well in advance of the UVSS elections."

"The Resource Centre responded affirmatively during the election period, which is why the motion appeared on the agenda during campaigning," Beames said.

Despite much discussion, the UVSS meeting did not made quorum and so the motion was not tabled.

Beames chastized by UVSS elections office for comments during debate

In response to Mike Waters' question about the timing of the UVSS motion, Penny Beames accused Waters of campaigning to reduce advocacy group funding in 2005.

"Why is there a group of students advocating on behalf of students with disabilities under a chair [candidate] who campaigned last year vehemently against advocacy group funding and funding for groups like VIPIRG and UVSP?" she asked.

That statement led Waters to file a complaint with the UVSS elections office after the debate, arguing Beames' accusation was false and damaging to his reputation. Ben Johnson, the chief electoral officer, investigated and could not find any concrete evidence that Waters had campaigned on reducing funding to advocacy groups in the 2005 election.

"Therefore, I will inform Penny Beames that in the interest of fairness and respect, that she should immediately desist from making any further unsubstantiated comments about [Waters'] 2005 platform or she will face further consequences," Johnson wrote in his response to the complaint.

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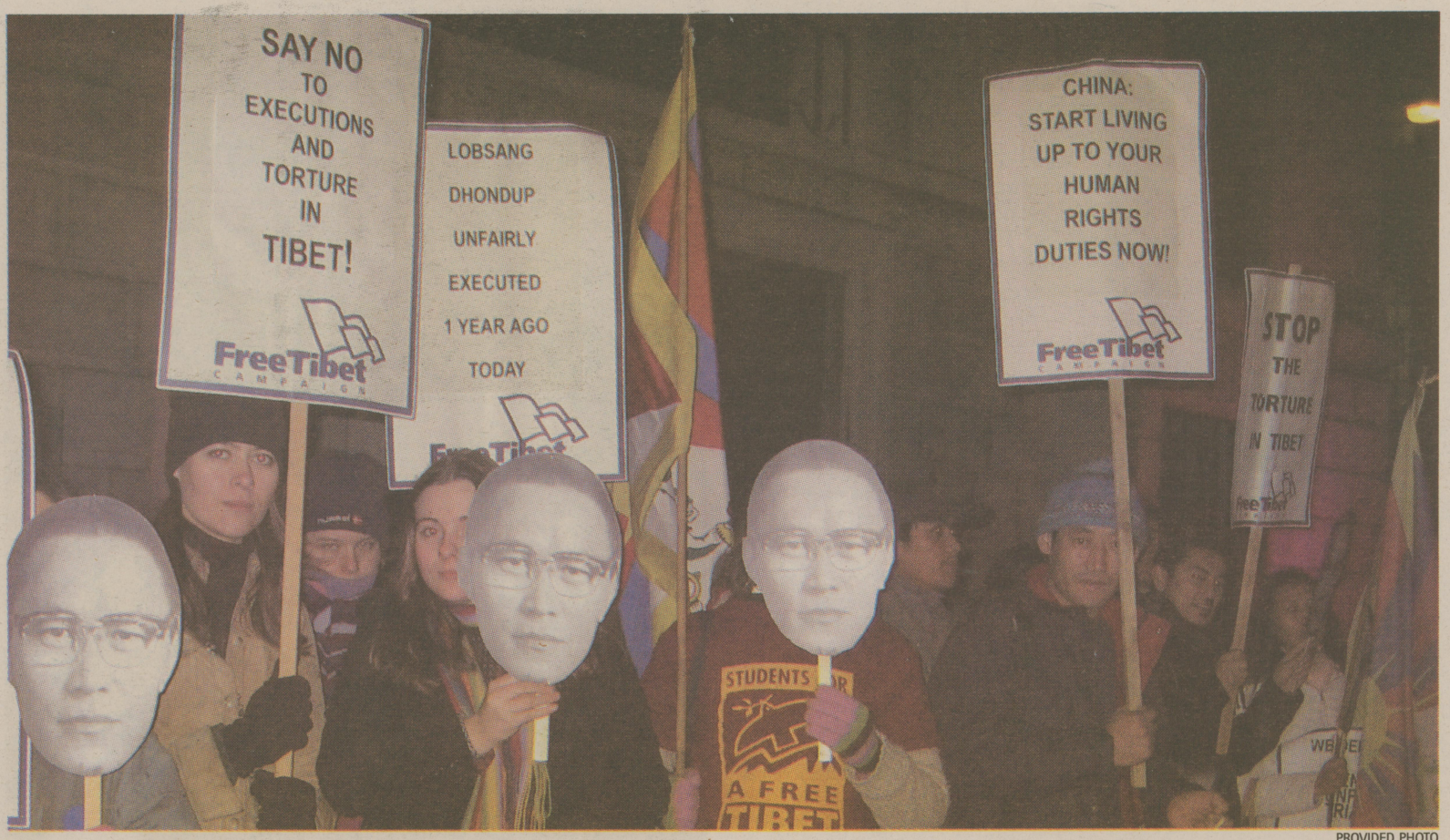
Students host benefit to aid Tibetan refugees

by Kim Armstrong



PROVIDED PHOTO

Students for a Free Tibet (SFT) is an international NGO that holds events all over the world, like this vigil in London, U.K., and now UVic students are bringing the cause to campus.

Steamer's Pub will be rocking to a karmic beat on Thursday, March 16 in a benefit concert to raise money for Tibetan refugee camps in India.

UVic students Karina Sahota and Karina Koczapski recently took up the mission of reviving the UVic chapter of the Students for a Free Tibet (SFT) after a period of dormancy. Koczapski said the move to restart the club was made soon after she began learning about the plight of Tibetans.

"I felt really concerned. I felt like I wanted to do something, because in Canada we have the power to do something," she said.

The Chinese invasion of Tibet in 1950–51 brought the country under Chinese occupation. The international non-governmental organization (INGO) SFT, of which UVic's chapter is a part, estimates that 1.2 million Tibetans have died at the hands of the Chinese invaders.

Tibet's religious and political leader, the Dalai Lama, was forced to flee the country at the age of 23 after an uprising in 1959 that led to the deaths of thousands of Tibetans, and he has been living in exile in India ever since. The Dalai Lama has maintained a Government in Exile since his flight.

A portion of what was Tibetan territory has been named the "Tibet Autonomous Region" by the Chinese government, and is recognized internationally as the Chinese territory of Tibet. Expressions of Tibetan culture, such as possession of the Tibetan flag or photos of the Dalai Lama, are viewed as a threat by the Chinese government and systematically quashed through *ad hoc* imprisonments. Many Tibetans have been persecuted without fair trial for the beliefs they hold, or for no reason at all.

Refugee camps like the ones UVic's SFT club hopes to help have been springing up in neighboring countries like Nepal and India for as long as Tibetans have been fleeing Chinese oppression and persecution.

So far this year, the SFT has been involved in a variety of projects to bring awareness to the cause. Working with the Canada Tibet Committee last semester, they organized a talk on campus by Palden Gyatso, a Buddhist monk who was imprisoned for over 30 years in China. Through an interpreter, the monk spoke of his experiences.

"It was really incredible to see him, and to see someone who had gone through that experience," said SFT member Casey Stepaniuk. "He just had this kind of amazing presence."

Last month, a table in the SUB was used to facilitate a petition to free Tenzin Delek Rinpoche, a monk currently imprisoned in China for "trying to practice Tibetan Buddhism [and] trying to keep Tibetan culture alive," according to Stepaniuk. The Chinese government has implicated him with what the international group alleges are false bombing charges. However, this time last year the Chinese authorities converted the monk's death sentence to life in prison in response to pressure from petitions organized by groups such as the STF.

"[It] is pretty amazing, knowing that signing petitions and stuff can have such an effect," said Stepaniuk.

Tickets for the STF benefit concert, which start at $7, can be purchased at Lyle's Place, Fiber Options and UVic during the day on March 16. Tickets are also available for a $10 donation at the doors, which open at 8:30 p.m..

The Rokpa Show will feature Deuce, along with guests Global Lounge, Finlay, and world fusion DJ Kaminanda.

"The bands are pretty different from each other . . . kind of an eclectic mix," said Stepaniuk, adding that she hopes the event will bring out a diverse group of people to come have fun and learn a bit about Tibet in the process.

More information about the benefit and the UVic chapter of SFT can be found at http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/uvic_sft. For more information about the INGO Students for a Free Tibet, visit www.studentsforafreetibet.com.

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Budding musicians find a bohemian oasis

A jazzy new café, The Superior, showcases emerging performers

by Courtney Tait

The servers wear paint-spattered, Pollock-inspired smocks, the menu features a pasta dish called the Purple Pom Pom, and the owner collects birds' nests (displayed in glass boxes in the foyer).

Welcome to The Superior, an eclectic, antique-filled haven and Victoria's newest venue for musicians with an acoustic ear.

Tucked away in a century-old brick building on the west end of James Bay's Superior Street, The Superior was opened in October 2005 by Lisa Boehme, a former interior designer and experienced restaurateur. (Long-time Victoria residents may recall the funked-out feel of La Boehme and Java, Boehme's business ventures from the 1990s.) "The Superior is an upscale version of the bohemian café," says Boehme. "It's a whole experience to appeal to all the senses."

I first stepped into the cafe on a Thursday afternoon, after convincing my friend Gaeli that a glass of wine at 3 p.m. made perfect sense. We slouched in striped velvet chairs in front of the fireplace, drank Red Rooster pinot noir (one glass turned into three and a bowl of fried Root Chips) and commented on the beautifully strange décor: upside-down antique chairs hanging from the wall, perched on by stuffed black crows. A gold lion statue and an ornate mirror. A deer's head, mounted beside the piano and decorated with cotton-ball snow. ("That's Truman," our server told us. "He's our mascot.")

When we finally left, the 75-seat café was full, a man on stage was strumming a flamenco guitar, and a line-up had formed at the door.

For Boehme, who spent five years working on the café's concept, live music was always part of the plan. "There needs to be a place for young musicians to learn how to play in front of an audience," she says.

The Superior has already become a regular gig for two Royal Conservatory students: jazz pianist Dan Anies, who claims the stage every Tuesday evening, and 19-year-old jazz keyboardist Sunny Shams, of The Sunny Shams Trio. Rounding out the entertainment are acoustic performances of blues, swing, and classical, as well as a Sunday-evening fiddle jam hosted by locals Adam and Jude.

While Boehme welcomes both experienced and up-and-coming musicians, her venue extends beyond the musical realm. Attached to the cafe is a gallery run by Boehme's father (local artist John Boehme) that displays art and antiques. And this summer, the outdoor courtyard will transform into a mini-theatre for images projected on the building next door. "We'll have old black-and-white films," says Boehme. "And the garden is going to be lush and very overgrown."

The Superior's eclectic sense transfers easily to its menu, an all-organic, small-plate selection created with fresh, local ingredients. Items like Grilled Chicken Thighs ($8) and Tofu Fries ($5) are featured alongside $10 flatbreads with names like "Sinatra," "Liberace," and "I Love Lucy." Local micro-brews (hello, Phillips Chocolate Porter!), B.C wines, and straight-from-Japan sake add to the tastebud mish-mash.

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

The Superior: "more like a vintage dress than a pair of jeans."

While Boehme insists the café is casual, its atmosphere is undeniably elegant—more like a vintage dress than an old pair of jeans. And the James Bay location draws a tea-room crowd that seems somehow incongruous with bohemian sensibilities. But perhaps this is The Superior's challenge: to use art, in its various media, to attract a clientele as eclectic as its menu.

"It's a community place," says Boehme. In a city long overdue for a lively café scene, The Superior brings inspiration to the table.

The Superior is open Tuesday to Sunday, 11 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. Musicians interested in performing can contact Lisa Boehme at 380-9515 or info@thesuperior.ca.

Sexcetera, Sexcetera

by Bryna Hallam

Looking for information about sex and sexuality? Then check out Sexcetera on March 23.

Sexcetera is a day-long event featuring vendors, community groups and workshops.

A lack of easily accessible information on sex and sexuality prompted the event, which has been in the works for two years, said UVic Students' Society director at large Jonny Morris.

"The event gives students a chance to explore sex and sexuality in a safe environment," said Morris.

The event will feature presentations from local sex shops including The Romance Shop, The Garden of Eden, and Kiss and Tell.

The Love Den will also be doing a workshop on sex toys titled Your Sex Toy: Safe or Not? According to Morris, it will look the health and safety aspects of sex toys, including allergy risks.

Also on the schedule are a Barrier Boot Camp, Who Wants to be a Sexpert?, and the always popular—and controversial—bondage workshop by Sagacity.

The keynote speaker is Dr. Trina Read, a Calgary-based sexologist and newspaper columnist. She will be doing two presentations: Why is it so hard to say what you want in bed?, and Zero to Orgasms: Just Say No.

The day wraps up with an after-party at Vertigo.

"It's the first event of its kind at UVic," said Morris, "and it's a really unique opportunity for students."

Student admission to Sexcetera is $5 for the open house, which includes the vendors, workshops and keynote, and $5 for the after-party. Non-students pay $7.
All events are being held in Vertigo in the Student Union Building.

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Nothing about us without us

by Rose Mariana Robb

Many a well-meaning soul has tumbled into the error of trying to do things for disabled people instead of with disabled people.

The old "charity" and "medical" models of disability linger on, making it all too easy to slip into sorting out what's best for disabled people without consulting us or our representative organizations.

People may still feel more comfortable talking to medical experts or service providers than to disabled people themselves. That's why "Nothing About Us Without Us" remains the rallying cry of the disability movement throughout the world.

At a recent job forum hosted by the National Education Association of Disabled Students (NEADS), I felt inspired by the closing lines of one of the representatives of a large national employer.

He had outlined a variety of approaches that his corporation had explored to make their workplace more inclusive, describing the huge learning curve that management had experienced as they began to open up their company to employees with disabilities. He found that the company's commitment to a more representative workforce benefited the company. His ended with, "The rest, of course, is up to you."

Event host NEADS Job Search Strategies Forums Project addresses the practical aspects of successfully transitioning from university to the employment market. Despite the progress that has been made in the last decade, people with disabilities are still three-and-a-half times more likely to be unemployed than non-disabled people—even when they have the same level of education. It was good to hear an employer acknowledge that disabled people working together will come up with the best strategies.

The practice of consultation with persons with disabilities and representatives of disability organizations demonstrates respect for the rights and contributions of people who are often marginalized and excluded from full participation as equals. Planning around disability

at the university and in the rest of society will benefit from the active involvement of persons with disabilities, who know best in terms of planning and developing policies, programs and practices that affect their lives.

But there is often tension between disabled people and the agencies that provide disability supports and services, too. Historically, such agencies resisted the efforts of disabled people to organize and speak for themselves.

Whenever and wherever disabled people have begun to organize they have been resisted by those whose job it has been to look after them, or provide them with services. Advocacy groups and service providers co-operate and work together but have different roles and responsibilities.

Thankfully, we're now moving toward a time when most charitable agencies and service providers take direction from the major advocacy organizations of disabled people.

Introduction to Sign Language classes, with deaf instructor Elizabeth Syring continue every Wednesday in March, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the Access UVic office, SUB B102. Rose Mariana Robb is the director of Access UVic.

AURAL AFFAIRS

Together for all the wrong reasons

by Jake Sandberg

Most people feel that the best relationships blossom out of friendship, although I think that's probably just some sappy crap people serve up when they get dumped and need a rationale. But there are good and bad reasons to enter a relationship.

Being alone blows, but being stuck in a bad relationship can be just as miserable, with only a painful messy break-up to look forward to.

Second place is first loser—as true in love as in sports. Getting involved with someone because your first pick wasn't interested in you is a bad idea. Having your back-up find out they were your second choice sucks, while your lukewarm feelings, doubts and thoughts of "what if" will grate at you. And if your first choice changes their mind, would you have the heart to pull a partner switch?

While you may feel you need to be in a relationship, you need to ask yourself if you actually want to be in a relationship. The answer may seem clear while you're single, but once partnered up, a whole new slew of questions can arise. Are you in for the long haul? What if you fall madly in love? What if you don't want to wreck what you already have?

The stress of wanting to be in a relationship can be just as trying as actually being in a relationship. Sure, the questions and worries may be different, but the feelings are the same. So if you're totally confused as to which way to go, follow your heart. If you want to see that significant other all the time, no matter the obstacles (sex included), then a relationship with them might be right for you.

While relationships can take up time and energy, having a relationship allows you to be with someone that you connect with—someone that makes you feel funny, adored, loved, and, above all, makes you never want to let them go.

If there is any uncertainty in your mind about whether any potential mate does that for you, then they're probably not good relationship material. But if the love is right, then everything looks perfectly clear.

Next week: "Some like it Hot!"

PROVIDED PHOTO

Being alone can blow, but a bad relationship isn't any better.

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Editorial

Harper's refusal to discuss Afghanistan not helping

We won't cut and run, said Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada's commitments in Afghanistan. "It's not the Canadian way," he told soldiers in Kandahar.

Apparently discussing issues like sending Canadians to war is also not the Canadian way.

The latest message from Harper, wrapping up a three-day visit to Afghanistan, is directed to his political opposition: Don't play politics with the Canadian Forces mission in the war-torn country.

Too bad that's all he has to say, because polls show Canadians are questioning our role in Afghanistan.

A poll conducted for the *Globe and Mail* and CTV News at the end of February showed that 62 per cent of respondents were against sending troops to Afghanistan, while 27 per cent were in favour.

A later poll contradicted that finding. In an Ekos poll conducted a week later, 70 per cent said they backed the mission. Twenty-eight per cent said they were against it.

That's a pretty big swing in opinion, and chances are the truth lies somewhere in the middle. At the very least, it seems to suggest that some dialogue about the mission and our commitment to it is needed.

In the *Globe*/CTV poll, 73 per cent of respondents said the decision to send troops to Afghanistan should require parliamentary approval, while 20 per cent said it should not.

After the September 11 attacks, Canada contributed 2,000 soldiers to a NATO-led force in Kabul. By next month, there will be 2,300 Canadian troops in Kandahar as part of another mission.

Casualties are the price that might have to be paid to bring stability to Afghanistan, Harper suggested.

We'll know our work there is done, he said, when the goals of the mission are met. "Our two principal military objectives are to fight terrorism, fight the forces of terror here, and to reduce the threat . . . the second is to aid the Afghan forces in fighting it themselves."

Canadian soldiers in Kandahar are already coming under frequent attack. Eleven Canadians have been killed in Afghanistan since 2001, including diplomat Glyn Barry, who was killed by a suicide bomber.

Canadians should have a chance to hear Harper out, to be convinced—or not—by his reasons for keeping soldiers in the war-torn country.

It's been over four years since our original post-9-11 commitment, and nearly a year since the Liberals ordered another deployment. As past conflicts have clearly demonstrated, support from the Canadian people is necessary if the government wants to keep troops fighting.

Retired colonel Michel Drapeau may have said it best when he was talking to Canada AM.

"In a democracy I think the people have to get behind the government," he said.

"The nation has to be convinced to the point that they will be persuading their sons and daughters to join the military."

Harper needs to do better than saying cutting and running is not the Canadian way if he wants our support.

Editorial topics are decided at weekly editorial meetings and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of all staff members.

edit@martlet.ca

THUMBS UP | THUMBS DOWN

Thumbs Up

Chuck Norris and his rules:
• Crop circles are just Chuck's way of telling grass it needs to lie the hell down.
• Chuck's tears can cure cancer—too bad he never cries.
• They wanted to put Chuck on Mount Rushmore, but the granite wasn't hard enough for his beard.
Oh, Chuck . . .

Thumbs Down

The Ides of March, the semester's puckered asshole, when everyone goes crazy with school work and gets snarky with their friends. Caesar's friends got so pissed off with him, they totally killed his ass. Bad times.

EDITORIAL CARTOON | RRRRRROLL IT UP

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

LETTERS

Insulting your mother

Props to the *Martlet* for not following the lead of the UPEI *Cadre* by refusing to publish the infamous "Muhammad cartoons."

Groups that have decided to reprint the Muhammad cartoons have overlooked two major aspects of free speech and its role in Western media.

The first is that the right of free speech is conditional on whether or not the speaker is respectful. This is demonstrated by the limits to free speech that have been acknowledged in Canadian law. For instance, it is illegal to encourage hatred. The Muhammad cartoons may not be promoting hatred outright, although one could argue so, but, they are nevertheless hateful and deliberatively provocative.

The second point is that the role of the media is to engage the public in meaningful debate, this is essential if democracy is to function properly. The Muhammad cartoons fail to do this. Rather, they immaturely insult that which is most respected by Muslims around the world. This is somewhat analogous to insulting someone's mother. Once debate has incorporated insults it is no longer progressive, it is only argumentative. Those who seek the republishing of the Muhammad cartoons seek the degeneration of Western media and political debate into nothing other than mere childish insults.

By refusing to republish the Muhammad cartoons, the *Martlet* and others have stood up for the values of Western media in a way that goes beyond mere freedom of speech.

-Dan Bertrand

It's a Shame

I also attended the John Elmer presentation ("Shame on you" Letters, March 9). Further, I recognize that Mr. Elmer was acting with a significant lack of inhibition in many respects. However I completely reject the idea that any shame should be laid on him.

I challenge any of you who were at the event to have a conversation about it and tell me that you don't feel the tension. I further challenge you to turn your concern to why you feel this way instead of toward the presenter, or even the people in the crowd. I would hope that we could all remember why this issue is so controversial.

Why should we condemn anyone who has seen things that I can only imagine, or condemn a crowd for having opinions and personal involvement? Both parties were obviously experiencing psychological stress, and that should be understood as the most human reaction to any subject of this nature. This is not something to be frowned upon but rather understood. I implore the reader to remember this fact.

If we ignore Mr. Elmer's own humanity, we delude the issue. These are people in the Gaza Strip we are talking about: Jewish, Palestinian, and Canadian! Let us remember why he was brought here and what we learned, about the issue and ourselves.

I would like the author of the previous article to understand that I write this out of concern for the dialogue I have been hearing in relation to the event. It is very alarming to see friends so divided by such a misunderstanding. I worry about more unnecessary sadness coming from this.

-Matthew Greeno

Fearing the orgasm

After living a decade in the Netherlands, I'd forgotten about the English speaking world's unholy alliance of feminists and fundamentalist Christians who oppose the freedom of others to express themselves with erotica. They not only disapprove of straight porn, but gay erotica as well.

Someone once suggested these people are either "dead from the waist down, or live in fear and loathing of the dreaded orgasm that sweep them away in the ecstasy of unbridled passion!"

-Jan D. Horn

You have very poor taste

I was appalled while reading the Oscar article in March 9 edition of the *Martlet* ("Oscars' finale a swift kick to the crotch"). I know everyone has his or her opinion on who should've won Best Picture (Personally I thought either *Crash* or *Brokeback Mountain* deserved it), but the article in question was blatantly disrespectful and outright mean towards not only *Crash*, but also its director/writer Paul Haggis. It's one thing to prefer a movie over another, but referring to *Crash*'s director as an idiot savant is in very poor taste. For one, it is very disrespectful towards actual savants, and it's nothing but libel towards Paul Haggis. Your publication states that it "will not print racist, sexist, homophobic or otherwise oppressive copy." Does the slander of Paul Haggis not fall into the latter category?

-Allister Howe

Equality is not revenge

In the article "What happened to the Boy Scouts?" (*Martlet*, Feb. 16), Kim Armstrong speaks of the "invasion of the X chromosome" into the Boy Scouts and bemoans the seemingly hypocritical denial of boys' admission to the Girl Guides. Indeed, the Boy Scouts have been, as Jessica Page notes, officially co-educational for ten years—so why not the Girl Guides?

The Girl Guides of Canada website indicates that there has not been sufficient interest by boys to seriously consider changing their policy. What does it mean when we have legions of young women fighting to participate in "boys" activities, yet virtually no young men arguing for access to "girls" activities? Moreover, why would boys not wish to participate in conventional "girls" activities? In a world where masculine behaviour is associated with power and agency—why would young women not want access to this exclusive club?

Armstrong laments: "the fact that women were historically oppressed by men and denied equal rights doesn't give them permission to get revenge now." Revenge? No. But equality, certainly. In a perfect world, "[equality] means everyone is treated equally." When systemic oppression is the very foundation of a society, what is equal is not always equitable.

-Lisa Robertson

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Don't waste time with half-assed petitions

Advocating for change means you actually have to suggest some sort of change

by Jared Watson

So here's a conversation I've had entirely too many times in my five years at UVic:

Stranger: "Hi there, would you like to sign this petition?"

Me: "What's it for?"

Stranger: "We're trying to get as many student signatures as we can on this petition to lower tuition fees. Since coming to power, Gordon Campbell and the Liberals have jacked up tuition fees by more than 40 per cent. With this petition we want to send the message that we are unhappy with the increased costs of going to school."

Me: "And?"

Stranger: "And what?"

It is at this point that the two of us just kind of stare at each other awkwardly. Then I just cut my losses and walk away with another two minutes of my life lost forever.

Do I want to pay higher tuition fees? Of course I don't, but that is not the problem. Anyone with an ounce of common sense can guess that I, like every other student, want to pay as little as possible for tuition. This behavioural trend can be further broadened: People always want to pay as little as possible for the things they purchase.

I'm fairly certain that a petition of thousands of signatures stating the blatantly obvious is going to get about as much attention as it deserves. The recipient is going to hold the petition in his or her hands, judge its weight and, based on that weight, put the appropriate effort into a throw that will send it to the garbage can.

We're university students. We're supposed to be the intellectual vanguard of our generation. "I want to spend less money" is not a petition, it's an intuitive statement that could be articulated by anyone who is intelligent enough to have at least a partial understanding of the concept of money.

The goal of a petition is to prompt change, but how is it supposed to do that when no change is actually proposed?

You want the provincial government to listen to you?

How about coming up with alternative funding strategies, or at the very least some suggestions as to alternate sources of revenue. You want the provincial government to pick up more of the cost?

OK, but where should they cut costs back to accommodate this?

Certainly there is fat to be trimmed from any governmental budget, but how about taking some initiative and pointing out some of the fat?

And let's not kid ourselves—by the end of the NDP tuition freeze, universities needed more money. While the liberal arts students (of which I am one) may need little more than a professor and a chalkboard for their education, science and engineering students (of which I used to be one) were using obsolete and broken equipment. How useful is a lab experiment as a teaching tool when your margin of error is 312 per cent (as happened to me once in a physics 122 lab)?

"So what?" you may argue. "Let the engineers and scientists pay for their own equipment, but don't raise my tuition fees."

I'm sympathetic to this argument, but then I stop thinking selfishly. Our society will continue to need cutting-edge scientists and engineers, and this can only happen if the relative price of the education stays within reason. Right now, the price of a degree in engineering compared to a degree in the liberal arts is such that we can pass an adequate number of engineers through the system.

But if the price of a degree in engineering skyrockets while the price of other degrees stays the same, fewer and fewer people will choose the expensive option. A shortage of engineers in one generation means a shortage of bridges, computers, airplanes, automobiles and just about everything else in the next generation.

No one likes to drop thousands of dollars on their university education, especially when the certainty of employment by a degree holder is at an all-time low. But when you come to me asking if I want to sign a petition that contains no thought beyond "I want to pay less," you're asking me to associate my name with a document that is insultingly simplistic.

Speaking out about the Gaza Strip

Jon Elmer's presentation was not disrespectful

by Erik Haensel

It's a dark night, but warm and dry, after a spring day in the Middle East. You turn a corner down an alley and confront a scene of two people fighting. At first glance you see a person in ragged clothes kicking frantically at someone's shins—the aggressor. But you raise your gaze upwards, take in the full situation, and realize that the ragged kicker is gasping for air while being held against a wall. A person's hand is closing around their throat. Has your view of their action changed?

On this planet there exists only one place where a temporary refugee camp has existed for almost 60 years, where a million and a half people live (with a population density three times that of Manhattan) in a 360-square-kilometre piece of the desert cordoned off by security barriers, machine-gun turrets, eight-metre-high cement walls and razor-wire fences lined by landmined trenches.

According to the World Bank, 25 per cent of people in this community are unemployed. Eighty-one per cent of the population lives under the poverty line, in contrast to the 91.9 per cent literacy rate. This place is the Gaza Strip in Palestine.

In his letter "Shame on you" in last week's Martlet, Rafael Scarnati noted that he "attended a presentation on the situation in Israel and the occupied territories . . . expecting a very one-sided argument." Scarnati claims that he doesn't think that he has "ever been to an event where the speaker single-handedly created such a hostile environment for those not sharing his point of view."

As the moderator of the event, Jon Elmer's presentation "Israel's Disengagement: A View From Gaza" on March 2, I take issue with Scarnati's comments.

I believe that neither his generalization about a "hostile environment" nor his claim that "Elmer responded to every unfavourable question with utter disrespect" are accurate. I did my best to make sure that questions from all viewpoints were equally heard. One questioner asked Elmer what gave him the right to report from this area, while another questioned Elmer's testimony and told him that he was lying.

Elmer became visibly frustrated, but not disrespectful, and even agreed to entertain the arguments of positions that he claims were the opposite of his experience.

After the event, I spoke with many vocal participants, including some of Scarnati's friends. I was told by everyone that people felt respected and heard, although they disagreed with many of his points.

Scarnati claims that he found the event to be "a sickening display of directed guilt-tripping." This is an attempt to focus attention on Elmer rather than what he was discussing. What is truly sickening is the reality of life in the Gaza Strip. According to UNICEF, in the week between the event and the publication of Scarnati's letter, five children were killed by an Israeli air strike while picking strawberries.

On Aug. 10, 2005, the United Nations Human Rights Commission passed a resolution stating that they were concerned by the "grave impact on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall . . . and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the right to work, to health, to education and to an adequate standard of living."

Amnesty International states that "certain abuses committed by the Israeli army constituted crimes against humanity and war crimes, including unlawful killings; extensive and wanton destruction of property; obstruction of medical assistance and targeting of medical personnel; torture; and the use of Palestinians as 'human shields.'"

Suicide bombers who kill innocent Israeli civilians are definitely committing a terrible action, but so too are we who are complicit in the engineering of poverty, harassment and the murder of children by the Israeli military.

We who buy made-in-Israel products that are made in sweatshops worked by Palestinians in territory that Israeli law classifies as held under "belligerent occupation," to exempt it from domestic labour laws. We who tolerate this behavior and do not speak out.

The problem with pornography

Sex must remain a mystery if we are to stay sane

by David Karp

I was horrified when I saw last week's *Martlet* cover, which included photos of a blowjob and female genitals. Briony Smith's accompanying feature ("Porn porn porn") was also disappointing. Her article suggested porn has a lot to offer the world. But before readers rush out to rent the latest skin flick, there are a few things Smith failed to mention that might be of interest.

"The more pro-porn, or at least anti-censorship, we are, the better off we'll be," Smith told readers in a paragraph attempting to convince women of the merits of pornography.

In fact, the more anti-porn we are, the better off we'll be. Just look at Oklahoma City.

They closed more than 150 sex shops from 1984 to 1989, and the city's rape rate went down by 26 per cent. In the rest of their state, the number of rapes increased by 16 per cent.

In addition, numerous psychological studies have demonstrated that violent pornography desensitizes men and makes them more open towards rape.

Pornography not only affects women—it affects children too. Roughly 20 per cent of all porn on the Internet involves children, according to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children.

And children aren't just in porn—they're also watching it. As the conservative Christian group, American Family Association, points out, "the age group which [sic] views—consumes—pornography more than any other age group is the group between 12–17 years of age. . . . They will grow up with unrealistic, often morbid, ideas of what to expect from sexual relationships."

The American Family Association also found pornography present in every single child molestation case in a study of more than 40 cases handled by the Los Angeles Police Department.

I would hope that the *Martlet* would never encourage its readers to use crack cocaine or magic mushrooms.

Yet Smith's article encouraged readers to use pornography. "Girls, girls, girls, take another look at porn," she urged. And the girls who take a look might get hooked. One in six women have a pornography addiction, according to a 2005 study in Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity: The Journal of Treatment and Prevention.

According to Smith, porn is "a great potential ally in making the world a more sex-positive . . . place." But what Smith fails to understand is that porn is simply sex—there's nothing positive about it. What makes sex so wonderful is that it is sacred and private. Pornography doesn't depict sex like this, and by not doing so removes the magic from it.

Perhaps author G.K. Chesterton summed it up best when he said, "All healthy men, ancient and modern, Eastern and Western, know there is a certain fury in sex that we cannot afford to inflame, and that a certain mystery and awe must ever surround it if we are to remain sane."

Pornography is extremely controversial and has immense negative consequences.

This is why it is so unfortunate the *Martlet* failed to present the issue in a balanced manner.

ROAD WARRIOR

Gitxsan woman and residential school survivor brings her story to Victoria

by Sarah Lawley-Wakelin

When 67-year-old Martha Joseph arrived at the Parliament Buildings after five months of walking, she knew something was wrong.

Upon reaching her final destination in Ottawa, Joseph donned Gitxsan ceremonial regalia and gathered her sacred gifts together, including a scroll with names of residential school survivors. She planned to give these gifts of reconciliation to then-Prime Minister Paul Martin, in recognition of Residential School Survivor's Day on Sept. 16.

There was nobody there.

"I wanted to see the government, but [Martin] locked Parliament up," said Joseph. "To me, that's showing how guilty they are. If you don't have guilt, why lock up?"

The guilt Joseph implies is for the 87,000 indigenous children forced into residential schools by the Canadian government between 1860 and 1996. Most schools closed in the mid-'70s, but the last school didn't close until in 1996. The schools were run by churches, were funded by the federal government and were designed to prepare indigenous children for "white society." In total, 130 residential schools were located across Canada, in every province except Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. There were five residential schools on Vancouver Island.

Joseph left from Kelowna, B.C. on May 26, 2005 and arrived in Ottawa on Sept. 16. Her Victory Walk for Justice was to demand justice for the survivors of the residential schools. It was also a personal healing journey.

Joseph was taken from her family in northwestern B.C. when she was five. She was placed in the residential school in Port Alberni, located along the west coast of Vancouver Island, with her sister Edna, who was three at the time.

The officials who "kidnapped" her came without warning, said Joseph. But she was instantly suspicious of them. "I kind of knew that they were going to do something, because they did not have that friendly looking face, they had that straight, solemn-looking face. They were scary."

From day one, Joseph was punished for speaking her language. Sometimes this involved eating a bar of soap, beatings with a conveyor belt strap, and being locked in a storage closet for hours at a time.

What began was a 12-year period of confinement and abuse. Her experience would become part of what many have since called a genocide attempt by the Canadian government. What Joseph describes is a loss of childhood.

There was no playing allowed. There was punishment inflicted for the smallest of things. Instead of academics, there was forced physical labour.

"You had to clean this, clean that, and they'd put you out of the fields to work in the gardens," recalls Joseph. "Sometimes they even stuck you in a certain place where you'd have to sew by hand."

From day one, Joseph was punished for speaking her language. Sometimes this involved eating a bar of soap, beatings with a conveyor belt strap, and being locked in a storage closet for hours at a time.

Joseph recalls that the children were also constantly hungry. When they were fed, it was food of very little nourishment.

"I still have a scar on my hand where they burnt me when I stole a little wiener for my little sister. She was crying by the door saying she was hungry," said Joseph.

"I still have a scar on my hand where they burnt me when I stole a little wiener for my little sister. She was crying by the door saying she was hungry."

When Joseph was around 12, she began to be sexually abused by two of her teachers. "When the rape started I was even more withdrawn," she said. "When I tried to tell the matrons about it, they called me a dirty lying Indian that would always make up stories and never learn."

But Joseph's story is very real, and the telling of it has helped hear deal with the trauma of her experience. Joseph has emphasized that by losing her mother tongue, she also lost something directly tied to it: her people's culture.

"They were strange to me, they were so different," said Joseph of her return home when she was 17. "They didn't speak English, and half the time I didn't know if they were talking about me or laughing about me. I didn't want to live around there.

She moved to Terrace B.C., where she still resides and where she is trying to re-learn to her language with the help of relations and friends.

"It was an absolute policy of assimilation and cultural genocide," said Robina Thomas, assistant professor in UVic's school of social work and member of the Lyackson First Nation. "If you look at the United Nations convention on genocide, it said that taking children from their family and forcefully making them speak another language is genocide."

Thomas said that it is still hard for her, as the child of parents who went to residential schools, to accept that her kids are just being kids. "My husband and I needed to learn how to parent children because we hadn't been taught ourselves."

"That's why we end up with people on the streets, because they'll find a place to belong—in gangs, in prostitution," said Thomas. "We will find a place to belong; if it's not with our family in our secure home environment, we will find a place elsewhere."

Many never found a comfortable place to call home, and committed suicide, something Joseph herself attempted several times and something her sister Edna succeeded in doing.

For a while, Joseph said she tried to drown out the memories with alcohol. "It helped me to blot out bad memories and kept me numb, kept me from feeling any emotion that I did not want to feel."

In 1998, Joseph and 27 men put forward class action suits about the abuse that they had received. While many of the plaintiffs settled out of court, Joseph and seven other men went to court. The trial lasted until December 2000, a total of 111 days.

Joseph testified that two school principals began raping her when she was 12. While the seven other men received settlements for their abuse, the court deemed that Joseph wasn't a credible witness and she couldn't prove she was even present at that time. She appealed to the Supreme Court of Canada, but was denied for a second time on July 10, 2001.

"Those that settled out of court actually got more money than those who had to testify," said Suzanne Maurice, a graduate student in the UVic school of social work who focuses on indigenous resistance.

"That's a very cruel thing. What does it say? Our justice system is totally discouraging people from actually going through the court system. They wanted people to stay quiet, especially in those days."

Maurice believes gender played a role in the decision. "Out of all those cases, only Martha's was dismissed, as a woman."

To date, 15 per cent of people who attended residential schools have alleged they were sexually and physically abused. More than 1,000 settlements have been achieved with both male and female recipients. These dealt with claims of abuse, and many allege culture loss. Culture loss, however, is something the government said they couldn't prove. Joseph disagrees.

Culture loss is something the government said they couldn't prove. Joseph disagrees.

"It's not that hard to prove the language and culture loss because we were beaten if we even spoke our own language. It was beaten out of us."

The government issued a formal apology to residential school survivors and their families in 1998 as part of their Gallery of Strength initiative. This also included $350 million allocated to the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, dispute resolution with nine groups called Exploratory Dialogues, and what they call "litigation strategies," which are trying to move civil disputes away from the courts into more "compassionate" environments.

LETTING GO BY FRANCIS DICK | WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

CELEBRATION OF LIFE BY FRANCIS DICK | WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Artwork by Francis Dick
Dick is a member of the musqamakw Dzawadaenuxw band of Kingcome Inlet, part of the Kwakwaka'wakw nation.

COMES A WOMAN BY FRANCIS DICK | WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Joseph, though forced to recall her memories, did not receive any settlement.

Within two months of her Supreme Court case, Joseph had enough of sitting around. She began her first walk, from Prince Rupert to Prince George. She said it was anger that first motivated her.

"I saw so many people not trying to do anything for themselves. That brought the anger in me," she said. "I was angry at the government and the churches for what they did to these people."

Walking helped her healing process as well, something she never anticipated. She explains that the walk was a kind of spiritual experience and that she felt she was trekking through the animal kingdom. She also felt powerfully influenced by the people she met.

"There were some times when I wanted to give up, but then I ran into someone who was going through so much, and I carried on. I had to because I didn't want them to lose hope, and if I gave up they would."

Something dramatic needed to be done. She had raised awareness throughout B.C. while on many walks, but it wasn't enough. She felt that her walking, as a form of political protest and healing, needed to be taken one step farther. She needed to speak with those who initiated the problem, needed to make them aware that there still was much healing to be done for all of Canada. She needed to speak to the government in Ottawa.

This journey was going to be unlike anything she had ever undertaken, mainly because of the sheer distance that she had to cover. She also knew that she would have to have support and sponsorship in order to continue. However, she claims she received neither. She claims radio stations would not broadcast the fact she was leaving B.C. and needed donations. So she left with nothing.

"People must think I'm getting rich at what I'm doing," she said of her protest. "They don't realize how much I suffer when I get home, trying to pay my bills." Any little bit helps, *yet even the little doesn't* come in.

Joseph said that she eventually received a call from a reporter at a major Canadian news agency, who was interest in her walking.

"Every place I stopped I'd go and check my bank account, but nothing. Finally, I was getting shaky and dizzy and could hardly walk so I phoned my older brother and said I'm really hungry; I haven't eaten for several days, and I need lots of water, I'm getting shaky and I don't know what else to do."

"She gave my phone number and gave everybody my bank account number, but still nothing. Every place I stopped I'd go and check my bank account, but nothing. Finally, I was getting shaky and dizzy and could hardly walk so I phoned my older brother and said I'm really hungry, I haven't eaten for several days, and I need lots of water. I'm getting shaky and I don't know what else to do. So he put 300 [dollars] in my bank account."

She was just entering Alberta.

Alone and with very little money, she continued to press on, crossing through Saskatchewan and Manitoba. In Regina, she was met by Cora Dustyhorn, a grandmother who decided to walk with Joseph the rest of the distance to Ottawa, 2,789 kilometres away.

After walking more than 4,000 kilometres, Joseph finally arrived at the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa.

Following a brief speech on the Parliament grounds, Joseph, along with representatives of the Inuit and Metis people, gathered at the Human Rights Memorial and told the stories of their experiences in residential schools. No representatives of the government appeared, although they had been invited.

Joseph said she has been deeply disappointed that there was no rally to celebrate her gruelling journey, very little media coverage, and no official government acknowledgement.

However, she acknowledges that she has raised awareness and helped people, and in the process helped herself.

On March 24, UVic's school of social work is hoping to help Joseph complete her journey by organizing a rally on the B.C. legislature grounds. Joseph plans to present local government officials, including Denise Savoie, the member of Parliament for Victoria, with the list of names of residential school survivors that she originally intended to give to Ottawa.

The school of social work hopes that hearing Joseph's story will help some people cope with their own experiences, and help others who may not have even known of residential schools try to understand what has occurred.

"This woman has met all of these obstacles in her life, and she doesn't just lie down and take it, she starts to walk."

"This woman has met all of these obstacles in her life" said Maurice, "and she doesn't just lie down and take it, she starts to walk."

Martha Joseph will be telling her story Thursday, March 23 in David Strong Building C103. There is also a walk from the totem poles at Beacon Hill Park planned for 2 p.m., March 24, ending with a rally at 3 p.m. at the legislature grounds. A celebration feast will be held at 6 p.m. at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre, 231 Regina Ave.
Everyone is welcome to attend.

PROTECTED BY SPIRIT BEAR BY FRANCIS DICK | WESLEY SCOTT PHOTO

Lincoln's assassin takes a stab at *Julius Caesar*

The Phoenix Theatre's *Tyrants* follows the family Booth through an odd performance of Shakespeare's assassination drama

What: *Tyrants*, by Jacob Richmond and Paul Ledoux
Where: UVic Phoenix Theatres (www.phoenixtheatres.ca)
When: March 16–April 1, 2006
How much: $10 to $20, call 721-8000
Pre-Show lecture: March 17 (free)

by Steve Carey

TIM MATHESON PHOTO

Professional actors like John Krich and Lindsey Vukovic join students onstage in the new production.

In November 1864, three brothers performed a charity play about the assassination of a tyrant. Four months later one of them shot Abraham Lincoln in the head.

The Booth brothers—Edwin, Junius Brutus Jr. and John Wilkes—performed Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar* to raise money for a statue of Shakespeare to be erected in New York's Central Park. The next day, unionist Edwin and confederate John Wilkes argued bitterly about the American Civil War. On April 15, 1865, John Wilkes Booth shot Abraham Lincoln with a .44 calibre derringer in a premeditated assassination.

Tyrants is a play that has stewed in department of theatre chair Brian Richmond's head for over 10 years. The focus is on the Booth family's performance of *Julius Caesar* and their squabbles during rehearsals.

The actor Junius Brutus Booth was the hard-drinking, notably insane Booth family patriarch named after Marcus Junius Brutus, the assassin of Julius Caesar. Retired UVic theatre professor and professional actor John Krich plays Junius Brutus Booth in the production.

"[*Tyrants*] has John Wilkes's dissatisfaction with Lincoln, and his desire to initially kidnap and then ultimately kill him," says Krich, who is in his second UVic production since his retirement in 2002. "It grows out of the idea of tyrants. . . . [John Wilkes] saw Lincoln as a tyrant, and you have the overshadowing view of Caesar as a tyrant."

UVic mainstage veterans Trevor Hinton and Victor Dolhai perform as Edwin and Junius Brutus Booth Jr. The part of John Wilkes Booth is played by Carey Wass, who is making his mainstage debut at the Phoenix. The show is also the final UVic production for the graduating Éva Markvoort, who plays Asia Booth Clarke.

The idea for *Tyrants* came to Richmond when he was studying 19th-century theatre during post-graduate studies at the University of Toronto. He mentioned it to friend and collaborator Paul Ledoux, and the two began to throw ideas around. Richmond's son Jacob, whose play *The Qualities of Zero* is showing at the Belfry Theatre, was also involved in the writing process.

"It's an episodic play . . . originally based on the structure of *Julius Caesar*, with a similar scale and scope," says Richmond, who is both the dramaturge and the director of *Tyrants*. "It's a play that I'm invested in . . . both emotionally and intellectually. It's a project I've wanted to do for a long time, and those are always fun to realize."

Guest performer John Krich is joined by fellow guest Lindsey Vukovic, in the role of Mary Booth. Because of the rules imposed on professional actors by their union, both Krich and Vukovic had to get permission to perform in a non-equity play.

"[Actors' Equity] understand how important it is for students to work with professional actors," Krich said. "For students to work with professionals is a very positive thing."

Krich taught at UVic for 33 years, starting as a guest artist in 1968. The department was expanding and he was invited to join the faculty in 1969.

Even though he's been acting since high school, Krich still gets stage fright. He waits in the wings and jokes with other cast members that he'd rather be sailing.

"I think you always get nervous . . . you can't just go out there. I used to tell my students an actor has to always be at 100 per cent. Any performer is a perfectionist—less than 100 per cent is not good enough. If you've got a stomachache or back pain, you have to overcome that. You can't say 'I'll just do it half-hearted tonight.' It's got to be perfect."

Richmond made the decision to produce the play as part of UVic's 2006 Festival of Innovative and New Drama, and invited Krich to play the part of Junius Brutus Booth.

Rehearsals began at the end of January, but Richmond has been plotting out the performance for a year and a half.

"It's a 19th-century period play . . . so that requires a lot of skill to be able to realize that effectively," says Richmond. "Our MFA design student, Karyn McCallum, is designing the sets, props and projections, and she's doing a huge part of the visual presentation. She's done great—an amazing job."

The talented students who function as stage managers, board operators and set builders are too numerous to list, and the enormous amount of visuals and cues make *Tyrants* difficult to produce. Richmond said that there are thousands of hours put into this production, and the students have done a great job putting it all together.

Tyrants is a controversial look at the past and the personal animosity that may have driven John Wilkes Booth to assassinate Lincoln. There is a free pre-show lecture by writer Paul Ledoux on March 17 at 7 p.m. detailing what happened to the Booth family after their performance of *Julius Caesar*.

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East Coast fiddler performs and teaches local musicians

Who: Troy MacGillivray with Kimberly Fraser
Where: Pondside Music, 1150 Greenwood (Esquimalt)
When: March 20 @ 7:30 p.m.
How much: $12 for adults, $10 for students and seniors—call 361-1830, www.pondsidemusic.com

by David Karp

PROVIDED PHOTO

Troy MacGillivray's family fiddle has been appraised at $10,000.

Troy MacGillivray's sisters played the fiddle. His mother played the fiddle. His father played the fiddle. His grandfather played the fiddle all the way to the Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame.

It's not a surprise that MacGillivray is also a fiddler.

"It just was a natural thing to do, I guess," says the soft-spoken MacGillivray. "It's comforting in a way because I always heard the music growing up as a kid when I was one and two years old. It's sort of going back to what I know."

MacGillivray learned to play the piano at age seven and picked up a fiddle at age 10. He's now 24 and has released three albums. "For a while, I was a piano player. Then for a little bit I was a fiddler," he says. "I'm sort of getting back to a lot of piano stuff."

Family is at the heart of his music. "For me, it's important to keep it alive. My grandfather, so I hear, was one of the first in Canada to put fiddle music on record. So it's kind of a family thing to keep going."

His music is rooted in traditional songs from Antigonish County on the mainland of Nova Scotia. "On most of the East Coast, a lot of the people are the same," says MacGillivray. "They're very down to earth and love fiddle music. It's everywhere."

"The settlers who came from Scotland brought it over. They brought the music, the tunes, the instruments—they brought it with them and they set up shop here. They kept it going. It's a way of life."

And MacGillivray has kept the tradition alive, touring from Nova Scotia to Victoria to Iqaluit, and overseas to Denmark and the U.K.—all within the last year. While he says the hectic scheduling is tiring at times, he likes the fast pace.

"Right now, it's good. My mother passed away, the end of the last six months, so it was really hard at first. But it seems to be good to keep really busy."

MacGillivray's fiddle, given to him by his grandfather's cousin and appraised at $10,000, is a constant source of comfort. "I don't go anywhere without it," he says. "So if I do something where I don't need it and I don't take it, I feel like I'm missing something. It just becomes a part of you."

The Nova Scotian and his fiddle are no strangers to Victoria, returning for a fifth visit. "People on the West Coast really know a lot about the East Coast music, and vice versa," he says. "There's a lot of fiddling both in B.C. and [in Nova Scotia]. So it's always a lot of fun to play in the West. I really like it."

MacGillivray hits Esquimalt for an intimate show at Pondside Music, which is actually the house of Juliana and Douglas McCorison, an Esquimalt couple. It was custom-designed for concerts, and their venue seats around 40 people.

Kimberly Fraser, a step dancer, will be joining MacGillivray. The 23-year-old also plays piano and fiddle. "When I play fiddle, she'll play piano. Then we'll switch up," explains MacGillivray.

"It'll be a fairly traditional performance this time. Just fiddle and piano."

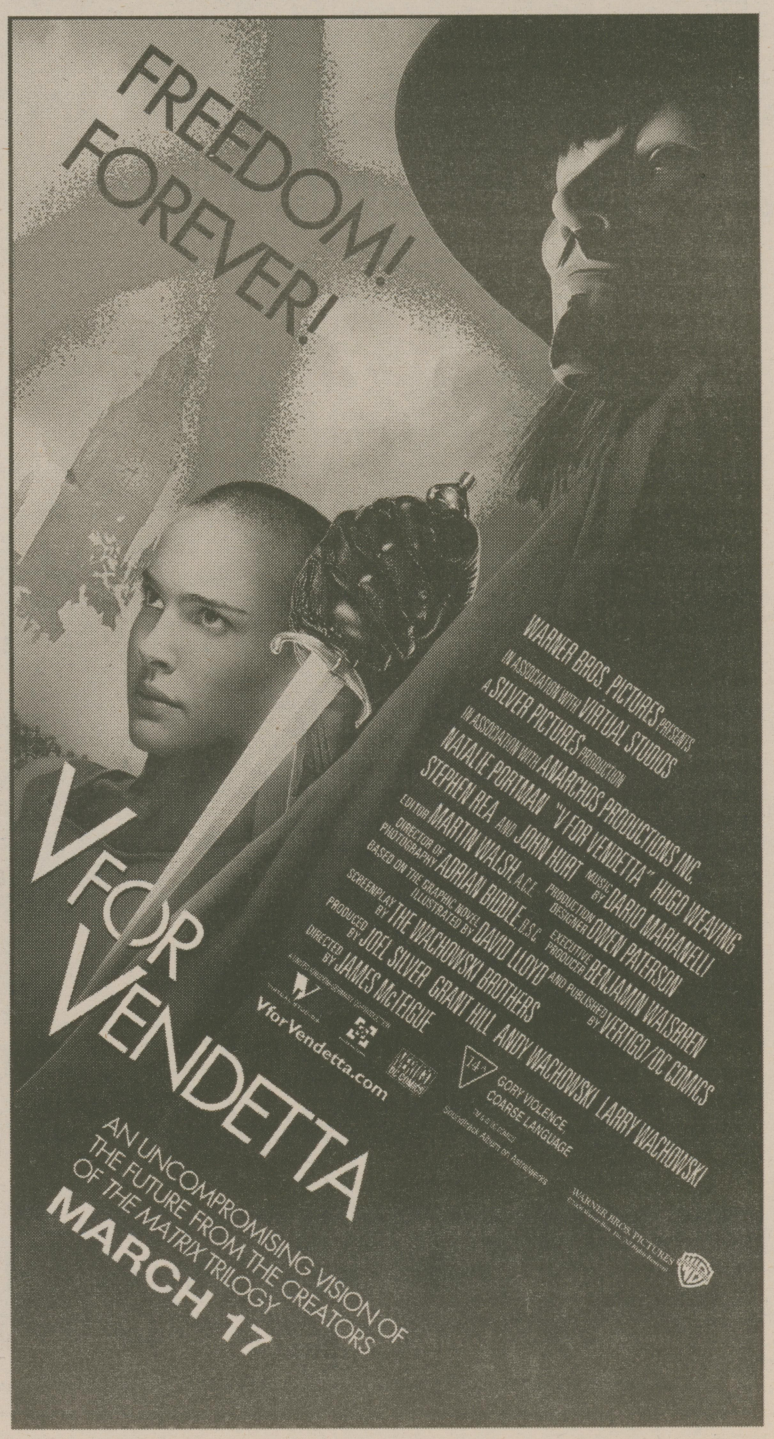
MacGillivray will also be teaching a workshop for intermediate and advanced fiddlers at Daniel Lapp's House of Music.

"I usually take some tunes, older style tunes, like tunes that were brought here from Scotland. I talk about them, teach them different bowings—basically how the style out here is achieved."

Still, the fiddler allows some non-traditional facets into his music. "I incorporate some of my own influences," MacGillivray says. "I listen to a lot of different stuff too. I love Dave Matthews."

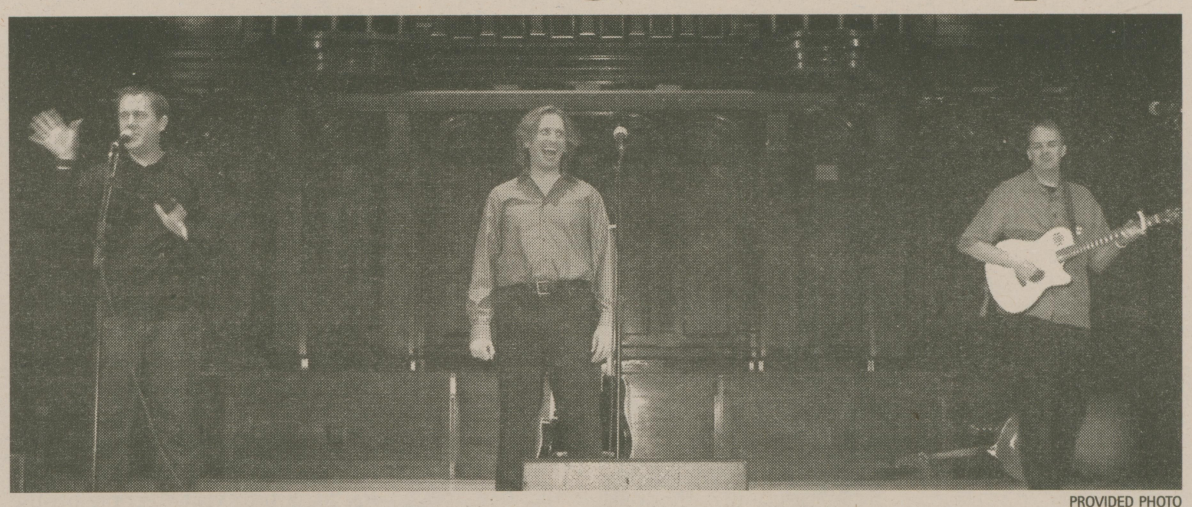
MacGillivray's blend of traditional fiddling and modern influences should make for a rousing and uncommon performance. "It's fun to play for people . . . their reactions and hearing their feet dancing on the floor—it's a lot of fun."

Troy MacGillivray's workshop takes place at Daniel Lapp's House of Music, 538 Fraser St. (Esquimalt) on March 21 @ 7 p.m. The cost per person is $30.



Arrogant Worms ride *Beige* to world peace

by Graham Stark



PROVIDED PHOTO

From left, Chris Patterson, Trevor Strong, and Mike McCormick at Victoria's Alix Goolden Hall.

Canada's favourite trio of musical comedians, The Arrogant Worms, recently visited Victoria in support of their new and delicious coffee-coloured album, *Beige*.

"We ended up with something we really, really like," says the Worms' Chris Patterson. "It's the best one we've done in a while. Certainly the best one since the last one."

The last one in question, *Toast!*, featured quasi-live recordings performed in front of an audience, and included several of the pre-song skits that make the Worms' live shows so fun. For *Beige*, however, the music demanded a return to the studio.

"It just feels more musically interesting," says Patterson, "and that needed the fuller band experience."

The Worms' albums always have a diverse range of music styles, but as Patterson says, *Beige* is different. "The music feels a little more grown up," he says, "but the lyrics are as sophomoric as they always are."

Sophomoric lyrics and skilled instrumentation show up in songs like *Beige*'s "Hernia Belt," a follow-up to Mike McCormick's highly personal song from *Toast!*, "I Pulled My Groin."

An important part of putting the album together is "road testing" songs in front of a live audience to make sure they're actually good. As Patterson explains, "by the time we're done writing and rehearsing and recording a song, it's not funny to us anymore."

Even if they're funny, not every song is album-quality.

"There were some songs that went on to pursue other opportunities," says Trevor Strong.

"But probably not in the music industry," adds Patterson.

"Yeah, some light clerical work, probably. The songs just didn't have the skill set we were looking for at the time," says Strong. "I'm sure their parents love them, but they were not for us. Good personality, though."

It's easy to see that humour comes naturally to the Worms, but the focus is always on the music—side projects aren't really in the cards.

"Well, I've dabbled in other things," Patterson says, before Strong cuts him off: "Witchcraft."

"Yes, witchcraft and gardening, but not much else. To be honest, this is what pays."

That's why the Worms have been able to keep doing what they love for 11 albums, with a multitude of Canadian tours and performances, and even some touring through the U.S., which, as Patterson puts it, "went well considering there's so many Americans there."

In the near future, the Worms will be spreading their influence to the United Kingdom. "Hopefully there won't be as many Americans in the UK," says Patterson.

The Worms agree that, with all their travels, the way to world peace is through their new album.

"We want to spread a little beige to the world," says Patterson. "It's a soothing colour—or non-colour—and it makes everyone happy. You can't really get mad at beige. It's cappuccino, it's rattan . . . it's beige."

Scottish punkers The Real McKenzies visit Victoria

Who: The Real McKenzies, The McGillicuddys
When: Tuesday, March 21 @ 9 p.m.
Where: Logan's Pub, 1821 Cook
How much: $12, $15 at the door

by Ford Walker

Legendary innovators The Real McKenzies are set to invade Victoria on March 21 after a long absence.

Hailing from Vancouver, The Real McKenzies have been rocking the subculture circuit with their brand of Scottish-influenced punk for 13 years.

Boasting five studio albums and countless compilations and EPs, the McKenzies are have made a name for themselves well beyond the West Coast.

They recently returned home from a tour in Japan and will soon embark on a U.S. tour.

Well-known for their stage attire, the McKenzies don traditional Scottish garb with pride. If you're not careful, you might catch an eyeful of Scottish tradition beneath their worn tartans. According to bagpiper Matt MacNasty, "It's nobody's damn business what's not under our kilts."

And it's not just the outfits. The McKenzies belt out Scottish folk sounds in a punchy punk-rock style. Band founder Paul McKenzie came up with the idea for a Scottish-influenced punk band when, says MacNasty, "he was sitting in a room, and from one side came [traditional Scottish artist] Andy Stuart and from the other room came the Sex Pistols, and he heard them groove together."

Scottish tradition has long influenced the band members, and they have inspired a generation to take pride in their heritage. "We've influenced kids on learning to play the bagpipes," says MacNasty.

The band borrows its name from both lead singer Paul McKenzie and from a brand of Scotch. "In Scotland," recalls MacNasty, "there's a really cheap, shitty single-malt whiskey called the Real MacKenzie. Ironically, it says 'Brewed in the fine tradition of P. MacKenzie and company.'"

However, there is no relation between the band and the brewer.

The Real McKenzies were recently signed to punk powerhouse Fat Wreck Chords, joining the likes of NOFX and Propaghandi. Their last album, *10,000 Shots*, was their first release on Fat.

Joining The Real McKenzies on stage at their March 21 show is local band The McGillicuddys. Together for nearly seven years, the McGs are well known in Victoria's Celtic scene.

So come on out and show your Celtic pride, throw back a few shots of single malt, and check out some rare and raucous Scottish punk.

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UVic chamber choir invades *Messiah* ballet

Royal Winnipeg Ballet joins forces with UVic singers for an inventive dance performance

PROVIDED PHOTO

RWB dancer Sarah Murphy-Dyson is moving on to a career in acting after making appearances in *Capote* and *Shall We Dance*.

What: Handel's *Messiah*
Who: The Royal Winnipeg Ballet and the UVic Chamber Choir
When: March 17 @ 8 p.m. and March 18 @ 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.
How much: From $38.65 to $71.20 (www.rmts.bc.ca)

by Micah Luxen

Handel's *Messiah* returns to Victoria March 17 and 18 with UVic's Chamber Choir and one of Canada's foremost ballet companies. For the first time ever, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (RWB), with orchestra, is teaming up with the choir to present Handel's masterpiece in song and dance.

The historic oratorio was chosen to complement the ballet because it's a piece that audiences are continually drawn to. "The *Messiah* is based on dance music, which makes it very appealing to listen to," says conductor Bruce More.

While the music is beautiful, the combination of Handel and professional dance will be awe-inspiring, says More. "It's a very unusual thing, and people can't picture it, because I don't think anyone has tried anything quite like it before. But I know the RWB does top stuff, so I trust what they'll do."

Victoria-born dancer Sarah Murphy-Dyson agrees that the show will enhance Handel's work. "If you add the different elements [together], it does make it a richer experience, because the music is still the same, and there's something for the audience to look at while they're listening."

Working in the style of contemporary ballet, choreographer Mauricio Wainrot created a piece that represented how the music made him feel. "There's no narrative, but it's more what inspired the choreographer after listening to the music," says Murphy-Dyson.

Traditionally, *Messiah* is performed at Christmas, although the music speaks of the upcoming Easter resurrection as well. The ballet attempts to incorporate this spirituality into its motions.

"I do a solo where I do one really beautiful *pas de bourrée* with another girl, and it almost feels like we're angels or something," says Murphy-Dyson.

Surrounding the heavenly dancers, the UVic Chamber Choir will skirt the theatre, performing from the box seats. "That's going to be very cool to have the choir in the audience chamber—like a very crude surround sound," says Dance Victoria producer Stephen White.

Murphy-Dyson agrees that the live music really adds to the show. "I love the idea that we're going to be able to see them, but we can't watch them or they'll be missing their queues and we'll be missing ours."

More feels the same. "The only downside [to working with the ballet] is that the choir has to watch the conductor, rather than the dancers. That was a problem with the last dance company—I think most of the guys' eyes were on the dancers."

But the UVic Chamber Choir is not just any group of singers. Arguably the most traveled choir in Canadian history, the assembly has toured to 31 counties in the last 30 years and participated in recording a Juno-award-winning album.

For their part in *Messiah*, the choir will perform a pattern that has recently become popular. "In the last 20 years, choirs have done this more sprightly, shall we say, version of *Messiah*," says More. "When I say sprightly, I'm talking about tempo. The sound is certainly more youthful."

As if a choir, an orchestra and a ballet company weren't enough, an up-and-coming actor will also take the stage. In her last year with the RWB, Murphy-Dyson is leaving the world of dance to take up acting.

"I got the acting bug really badly," she says, "and it's something I've become so passionate about in the same way that I've been passionate about dance my whole life. . . . [Dancing's] a short career and it's something we have to learn to accept. But this way I'm able to go out on the top of my game."

Murphy-Dyson has already made brief appearances in the films *Shall We Dance* and *Capote*.

"This whole season has been really neat because I know it's my last time, and it makes me appreciate every moment on stage that much more."

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MOVIE | THE LIBERTINE

Depp gets dirty, movie still sucks

by Marri Knadle

PROVIDED PHOTO

Despite its lurid subject, *The Libertine* is a dreary entertainment.

In the opening scene of Laurence Dunmore's *The Libertine*, the almost-always-likeable Johnny Depp looks directly into the camera and says, "You will not like me."

Depp stars as John Wilmot, the second Earl of Rochester, in England under the reign of King Charles II (John Malkovich). The Earl would be remembered in infamy for his satirical poetry, his cynicism, and an early death brought on by too much sport and a resulting case of syphilis.

The film focuses on his presumed involvement with the candid stage actress Elizabeth Barry (Samantha Morton) and his decline beyond debauchery into a slovenly, pitiable existence.

It's difficult to believe that a tale so ripe with scandal and ribald antics could fail to thrill, but *The Libertine* proves the point that good execution is as important as an exciting premise.

The camerawork is too reminiscent of *The Blair Witch Project* to be respectable, and while the grittier realism might be an artistic nod to the Earl's slanted world view, the uniformly tepid visuals ruin much of the story's potential.

The most amusing (and licentious) moments of the film are seen almost entirely in the previews, so despite high expectations, there's little to gain beyond the amusements of a smutty scene or two. Seeing a dandified Frenchman admiring the craftsmanship of a sculpted dildo almost makes the 18A rating worthwhile—never mind the copious cussing and ample bosoms on display throughout the film.

These gems of giddy vulgarity are often all that enliven the banal plot and imagery.

Viewers looking for a breathtaking historical film will most definitely need to look elsewhere, and those seeking bawdy entertainment might be better off with Wilmot's "A Ramble in St. James's Park."

THEATRE | SEINENDAN COMPANY

A comic *Conference* with tiresome samurai *Ladies*

by Jessica Smith

Even in Japanese comedy, a conference that shaped 60 years of political history and the fates of millions remains more interesting than a lunch meeting of indecisive office ladies.

Two one-act plays, *The Yalta Conference* and *Ronin Office Ladies (OL Chushingura)*, were performed at Intrepid Theatre's Metro Studio on March 10 and 11. Written and directed by Oriza Hirata, both plays parodied the egos and inanities that can affect life-and-death decisions, but with drastically different results.

The Yalta Conference is a fast-paced and very dark comedy. Joseph Stalin and Theodore Roosevelt are played by women, and Winston Churchill by a man. All of the actors are Japanese, and English subtitles are projected on a pair of screens at the rear of the stage.

At times the crossing of genders and races is absurd—the play opens with a Japanese woman playing a Russian dictator singing a communist folk song in Japanese. At other times, it's shocking—one of the only things that all of the national leaders agree upon is that they can't understand Asians, but think they are a cruel and inhuman race.

The play ends with a hypothetical conversation about rumours that the U.S. is developing an atomic bomb. They wonder how many Japanese lives are worth the lives of American soldiers and if it is true that this new bomb is powerful enough to boil the sea. No one is sure, but if one did really have a bomb like that, Churchill suggests, one would be really tempted to find out.

Hirata's humour relies on heavy dramatic irony. Conflicts from the past 60 years hover like spectres over the conversation: Churchill nonchalantly tells Stalin and Roosevelt not to worry about minor details like Jerusalem because he'll give the Israelis and Arabs their own little countries.

On the morning of *The Yalta Conference*'s second night in Victoria, Slobodan Milosevic died in his cell in the Hague. That evening in the theatre, actors playing world leaders from 1945 asked each other what they'd do if the Serbs ever find themselves a strong leader.

Ronin Office Ladies uses a similar kind of humour. The office women, also samurai warriors, discuss their possible futures now that their master has committed hara-kiri (government-ordered suicide) and their chances of finding new work and honour in a vendetta. But the audience knows from the introduction that they will end up having to commit hara-kiri themselves.

Surprisingly enough, mass suicide makes for a cute joke the first time around. The girls make scared faces and clutch their stomachs. Unlike *The Yalta Conference*, the reality of their situation is much less immediate—their story is based on reality but has been told as kabuki myth since 1701, and their fate is not a mystery. The new aspect of Hirata's version is the ladies' convoluted decision-making process. They argue and bicker in circles about how to argue and bicker, as the audience watches impatiently. Unfortunately, the few moments of comic relief aren't worth the frustration of following a hopelessly tangled argument to its breathless, dissatisfying end.

The Seinendan Company is moving on to Oregon and New York this week, and audiences should jump at the chance to see an original, fascinating play, but consider making an exit before the ladies take the stage.

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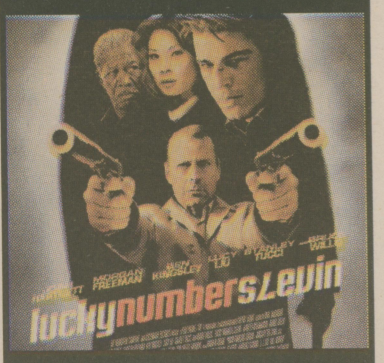


Drop by the Martlet office (SUB B011) and tell us what *Gangster* movie cast Paul Bettany and Malcolm MacDowell as the same character.

CDs | KT TUNSTALL, MYSPACE RECORDS, VOL. 1, STARSAILOR, SARAH HARMER

KT Tunstall
Eye to the Telescope
EMI Records

by Emilie Januszewski

When you're perusing the new releases rack, it can be tough to differentiate one glossy headshot from another.

Standing out from the crowd is KT Tunstall's *Eye to the Telescope*, the Scottish singer/songwriter's debut album. The cover looks a little like an Ashlee Simpson outtake, but don't be fooled—the music is anything but.

Tunstall's sound is fresh and smooth, a little like Jack Johnson (pre-*Curious George*). She writes all her own music, and her quirky lyrics are reflective and fun. With both Scottish and Chinese heritage, Tunstall offers a different perspective on a potentially overpopulated sound.

Still a pleasure after hours of listening, *Eye to the Telescope* could easily be a jazz bar's Saturday-night feature. Like Norah Jones without the overly enthusiastic schtick, Tunstall puts an edge on the traditional.

The only place the album falters is in its occasional tendency to whine. A few of the songs seem to have a very similar base, but the lyrics are all original and reflective, making it easy to overlook Tunstall's somewhat limited range.

Eye to the Telescope might easily go unnoticed by the younger crowd, yet Tunstall's passion and easy tunes are a charm. Tracks like "Other Side of the World" and "Universe & U" play it straight, while peppier songs like "Black Horse and the Cherry Tree" twist and tug the folk/country throughline.

A polished album from a considerable young talent, *Eye to the Telescope* has much more to offer than airbrushed cover art.

Various Artists
Myspace Records, Vol. 1
Myspace Records

by Cole Roche

The popular online community Myspace now has its very own record company, Myspace Records. To kick things off, the company released a compilation that embodies the ethos and attitudes of the Myspace community. Great idea, right?

Well, apparently Myspace didn't realize that people other than angst-filled, depressed teenagers use their site, because that's the only demographic that this record is likely to appeal to.

Featuring well-known bands like AFI, Fall Out Boy, Weezer and Dashboard Confessional, Myspace Records went to great lengths to make sure nothing good from any of them made it onto the album. The theme of this record seems to be that no one will ever understand you and the world sucks—I don't think it's even possible for a collection of songs to be more emo than this.

However, while wading through the sea of whining and social ineptness that is this record, I discovered a gem in Hollywood Undead's "No. 5". A bizarre mixture of hip-hop, club beats and witty lyrics, this song is infectiously catchy and manages to pull off something truly original

If you feel like putting on a bunch of eyeshadow, combing your hair down over one eye, and spending a night alone with your diary, *Myspace Records, Vol. 1* is definitely for you.

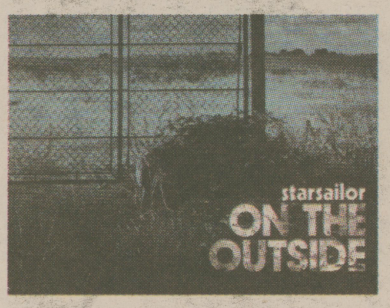
However, if you don't conform to that trite stereotype, you'll probably want to steer clear of this majestically banal compilation.

Starsailor
On The Outside
EMI

by Adrienne Ewart

On The Outside is Starsailor's third full-length album, and there seems to be something a little autobiographical about the title of the disc.

The young British quartet's debut LP, *Love is Here*, was slathered in hype by the British press. But the excitement has died down, and the bandwagon is now much less popularated after a lukewarm reception to their sophomore album, *Silence Is Easy*. Starsailor has just never had the impact that, say, Coldplay has. (The comparison is inevitable.)



The album begins on a promising note, with the upbeat "In The Crossfire" catching the listener with its high energy after a quiet, piano intro. But by the time the rest of the 11 tracks are through, it's tough to remember which is which. None really stands out or even makes you want to press play a second time.

Recorded in Los Angeles and produced by Rob Schnapf (Beck, Elliott Smith), *On The Outside* showcases instrumentation that is persistently monotonous. This puts frontman James Walsh's overwrought vocals on display, so he can give everyone a piece of his mind. The result is a weepy, insincere record tackling such pressing issues as the challenges of being famous in a "plastic society."

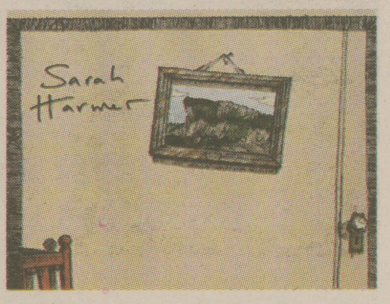
On The Outside attempts to rock things up more than the group's previous albums, but it falls short of its goal. The disc is, perhaps, best suited for long car rides when you're happy enough to admire the scenery and ignore the noise droning from your stereo.

Sarah Harmer
I'm A Mountain
Universal Music

by Cassidy Nunn

Often called one of Canada's strongest solo musicians, Sarah Harmer earns that praise with her latest album, *I'm A Mountain*.

The 11 tracks, inspired by country and bluegrass tunes, interweave folk and country. Harmer's voice is solid throughout, strong and soft above the multitude of accompanying instruments that include a mandolin, clarinet, piano, stand-up bass, accordion and, of course, an acoustic guitar.



Harmer sings "Escarpment Blues" in a mournful tone as she tells the tale of a land-use conflict on the Niagara Escarpment, where she grew up and where her family still lives. She delivers a powerful protest against the companies opening quarries above the escarpment: "If they blow a hole in the backbone/ The one that runs cross the muscles of the land/ We might get a load of stone for the road/ But I don't know how much longer we can stand."

Harmer holds that mournful note for "Luther's Got the Blues" and "How Deep in the Valley," but other tracks, such as the title track, "I'm A Mountain," are upbeat and joyful.

The only track on the album that doesn't seem to fit is "Salamandre," a children's tune sung in French and written by a couple of Harmer's friends. While the song is melodic and well sung, it is simply out of place and disrupts the flow of the album.

If the thought of country makes you want to run and hide, Harmer's blend of country and bluegrass might just change your mind.

Fans can check out Harmer when she performs at Alix Goolden Hall on April 11.

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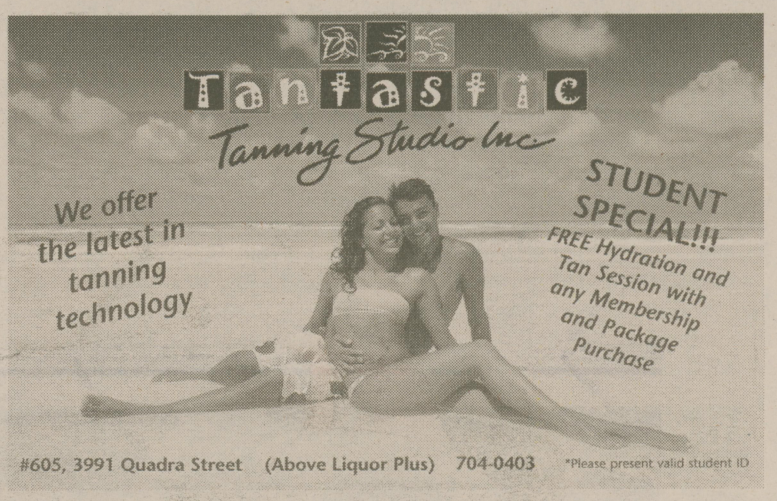

Obsession, definitions and the rush of competition

by David Karp

AHMED MUMENI PHOTO

The stakes are high: A win at an international Scrabble tournament can fetch the winner $25,000 US.

For some people, Scrabble is just another board game sitting in the closet until a rainy day. For others, it's a passion.

James Leong is a Scrabble fanatic. The 21-year-old UBC law student, who plays an average of 10 games a week, was crowned victor at the Vancouver Scrabble Tournament held March 4 and 5.

"I just play really fast," Leong said. "It's a mental rush that I like doing."

And, in the world of competitive Scrabble, players need to move fast—they only have 25 minutes to make all their moves for the entire game and they lose 10 points for each minute over.

Then, there are all the bizarre words—there are over 120,000 permissible words in the National Scrabble Association's Official Word List. The tournament player's Bible was updated earlier this year, and some additions include qubyte (a sequence of eight quantum bits), gyttja (an organically rich mud), boocoo (an alternate spelling for the French beaucoup), and hryvnia (a monetary unit of the Ukraine).

Many of the top players spend heaps of time memorizing lists of words and letter combinations. But Leong has a more relaxed approach to keeping on top of new words: "You just read, you go around the world, you observe things."

"For example, now [words] like pakora are good. Pakora is Indian food. Or bento, a Japanese lunch," said the Scrabble champion, perhaps a little hungry after his win.

He also could have mentioned za (slang for pizza), lassi (a beverage of yogurt, water and flavouring), ancho (a chili pepper), papadum (a thin, crisp bread of India), or poutine (a dish of French fries and cheese curds topped with gravy).

"There's a lot of Internet stuff that's coming on, like blogging and bloggers and cybersex," Leong added, admitting he tried, but didn't have the goods to lay down cybersex. "I've gotten close, but not perfect."

In Scrabble, players can challenge a play if they think their opponent has used a phony word. If the word is not on the official word list, their opponent must take it off the board. They also lose a turn. But if the word is legitimate, the person who put forth the challenge forfeits a turn.

Leong is also a pianist, and finds there is a similarity between music and competitive Scrabble.

"You can hear in a lot of famous musicians—they make mistakes with their technique—but [music] is their soul, it's their energy," he said. "It's that kind of addiction they have to being entranced by it. I play piano like that too, and I have this for Scrabble too."

Before the tournament, Leong was ranked 146th in North America. If he continues his winning ways, however, he'll soon be climbing the rankings, keeping his eyes set on Dean Saldanha, the top-ranked player in British Columbia and 83rd on the continent.

Saldanha, a 23-year-old business student at Richmond's Kwantlen College, placed 13th at the World Scrabble Championship in November and was Canadian Champion in 2003.

"My parents, they started playing at home, and I would set up the board for them," he said. "I got tired of that, so I started playing. As long as I enjoy playing, I'll keep playing."

While Saldanha usually only plays two games a week, he does study wordlists to help boost his score.

"Every game is different," he said. "There can be similar games, but you can never have games that are exactly the same."

Unlike Leong, who plays over the Internet, Saldanha usually plays at home with his family. His mother, father and sisters are all competitive Scrabble players.

His youngest sister, Dielle, is ranked 161st in North America. A Grade 12 student who plays Scrabble once a week, she hopes to someday pass her brother in the Scrabble rankings. "I've only ever played him once in a tournament," she said. "I won."

Luckily, her brother doesn't hold grudges. "He wasn't that mad. We're pretty good that way."

Dielle won an award for the highest-scoring game in her division at the Vancouver tournament—she nailed a 547 score. "It's not my highest," she said. "I had a 570-something once."

The siblings come by their Scrabble skills honestly. Their father, Norbert, who hails from the United Arab Emirates, was the Gulf Champion in 1991.

All competitive Scrabble players set their eyes on the international National Scrabble Championships held every summer in the United States. The champion walks away with a $25,000 US prize. Last year, Dave Wiegand, a mortgage underwriter from Portland, Ore. went home with the money.

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VIKES ScoreBoard

Men and women's rowing

The weather wreaked havoc for the annual dual meet between the Vikes and the Oregon State University Beavers March 12 in Corvallis, Ore.

On the Beavers' home course at Dexter Reservoir, the teams faced stormy weather that included snow and strong winds. However, women's head coach Rick Crawley said the competition "just out-powered us."

In the first race of the match-up, the novice women's eight "caught a crab" (made a faulty stroke) that took them out of the race. The junior varsity crew rowed a clean race, but the Beavers pulled slowly into the lead for the second victory of the day. UVic fell behind almost immediately in the varsity race and Oregon again took the win.

The men were also swept by Oregon, with the varsity crew finishing a close three seconds behind the Beaver boat in a race the UVic crew felt was one of their best to date.

Men's rugby

Vikes 31 – 7 Bayside

An individual 21 points from team captain **Ed Fairhurst** led UVic to a definitive victory over the Bayside Rugby Club on March 11.

"We played really well defensively," said acting head coach Rick Farrally. "We tackled really well and our back row stood up against some players from the national team."

Early in the match both teams preferred their kicking game to score. UVic nailed the first three points, but Bayside wasted no time on the rebound and achieved their only lead of the game at the 15-minute mark.

The Vikes had to dig in at the opening of the second half, as Bayside had them pinned inside their own end. However, they responded in good form.

"We counter-attacked really well today," said Farrally.

In the closing stages of the game the Vikes piled on 13 more points.

Fairhurst had three penalty goals, two converts, one drop goal and one try; **Mark Farrally** and **Dave Spicer** one try each.

Women's rugby

Vikes 15 – 17 Capilano

In a close encounter at Wallace Field March 11 UVic was overcome by the Capilano Rugby Club by a slim two-point margin.

"Our defence let us down today," said head coach David Graham. "We allowed them to maul us with their bigger and stronger bodies and they tackled a lot better."

With the early 5–0 advantage for the Vikes, Capilano hit back immediately to tie the match.

Jill Carruthers levelled the score at 10 with the Vikes' first possession of the second half.

The Vikes maintained their pressure throughout the remainder of the game, but were unable to break the line defence and went down by a score of 17–15.

Chelsey Llewellyn scored two tries while Carruthers had one.

Men's All-Canadian relay first in country

After near-successes in past two years, first-ranked Vikes' 4x800 team sprints to gold

by Megan Stewart

The third time proved a charm for the men's relay team at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) championships in Saskatoon March 10. The men, ranked number one in the country, took gold in the hotly contested 4x800-metre race and were named All-Canadians for their efforts.

"After many years of coming close, we finally won the relay," said head coach Brent Fougner.

This is the first national win for the Vikes in the men's relay, but the foursome has faced high expectations in the past. In 2004 they slipped into second place behind the host University of Windsor runners. Last year's meet again proved disappointing as none of the 11 athletes medalled. The men's 4x800 was one of four teams involved in a collision on the track and, while they did finish the race, they did not score a medal.

Daniel Maillie led for the Vikes and, narrowly avoiding a crash on the second corner, set the pace and made UVic the team to beat. Brandon Green ran second and put forth his best race of the year to keep UVic in the lead, and Richard Lehman ran a solid third leg to keep it that way. Anchor Geoff Martinson held off three teams, including Dalhousie and Manitoba, with a surge on the final corner to carry him across the line in first place with a time of 7:40.61 seconds.

Earlier in the day Martinson finished seventh in the 1,000-metre race in 2:30.18.

The women's relay entered the race ranked ninth and crossed the line with their fastest time of the season to finish sixth in 9:30.03.

Tiffany Evans narrowly missed a bronze in the 3,000-metre event by just over half a second with a time of 10:03.99. Fougner said she ran a "perfect race" but ran out of gas over the final 20 metres.

Christina Heisterman also ran the 3,000-metre race and finished behind Evans in fifth with a personal best of 10:07.52.

The men's team finished 17th overall. The women were 14th.

DREW S. LARSON/ THE SHEAF PHOTO

Christina Heisterman competes in the 4x800-metre relay at CIS nationals in Saskatoon. The women's relay finished in sixth place.

Thunderous applause

LINLEY FAULKNER PHOTO

Vikes mascot Thunder makes a guest appearance March 5 at Just for Kicks, a soccer program for children with disabilites. Volunteers have run the Sunday afternoon games since 1999. They were first organized by UVic biology professor Nigel Livingston, whose youngest daughter has Angelman syndrome.

The 'OH'lympic Games

Torino organizers stocked pharmacies with over130,000 condoms

by Brian McLennon, the Other Press

ANTHONY FRATTAROLI GRAPHIC

NEW WESTMINSTER (CUP) — Hundreds of athletes from around the world converged in the Alps of Northwestern Italy for the Olympics and until March 20 hundreds more will remain for the Paralympics.

With all the muscles flexing, hearts pumping and sweat dripping off sculpted bodies, it is no wonder that one of most popular events at the Games is the ole' down and dirty sport of . . . sex.

Ever since the beginning of the international event, a good romp in the hay (or snow for the winter participants) has always played a major role in Olympics. The reported level of frisky activities that were taking place off-camera led the Athens Olympic organizers to stockpile their Olympic Village pharmacies with an overabundance of 130,000 condoms . . . now that's amore. The numbers are a dramatic increase from the mere 25,000 condoms on hand at the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia.

When you really think about it, it all makes perfect sense. Many athletes and coaches still believe that the best way to peak performance is through abstaining from sexual activity before competition. So, with all these horned-up athletes crammed into an athletes' village complex, you're bound to have more than just ski boots "knockin."

In an effort to curb these kind of events, two religious organizations, LifeWay Christian Resources and Lay Witness for Christ International hosted "An Evening with the Olympians: True Love Waits" in Athens. The event featured athletes who encouraged students to make a commitment and remain abstinent from sex until marriage.

Back at the Olympic Villages a 130,000-condom stockpile was supplied to the 17,000 athletes. Organizers wanted to ensure that they didn't encounter the same problems as in Sydney, where a condom shortage had the latex tube worth more than the Olympic Gold itself. In an effort to prevent combustion by the athletes, 20,000 more condoms were quickly shipped in before the Games ended.

But let's not get carried away here. Cupid has done more than just shoot his arrow into the confines of a love glove; he has actually made some real love connections. During the 1972 Munich Olympics, Hostess trainer, Silvia Sommerlath caught the eye of Swedish crown prince Carl Gustaf XVI Bernadotte. When the Games ended, he tracked her down and the two were married in 1976.

Former Canucks player, Bret Hedican was struck by Cupid's arrow during the 1992 Winter Games in Albertville when he was introduced to figure skater, Kristi Yamaguchi. Yamaguchi claims she had no recollection of the initial meeting as she was in "la-la land" after winning the gold medal. However, a few years later at GM Place's opening gala, the two were reunited as she was a starring performer and he was with the Canuck's organization.

Yamaguchi said that it was the second introduction that "made an impression." The two were married in 2000 and now have two children.

At the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, love was in the air as sweethearts took to the streets on Valentine's Day to exchange kisses. The lip-locking event all started when the city's police officers handed out heart-shaped "Kiss Me" suckers. Heeding the advice of the tasty treats, couples began to embrace each other in the streets of this normally dry, conservative city.

So, while you're watching athletes perform at their peak, keep an eye out for that glazed look that accompanies new love. You may be witnessing the birth of a lifelong partnership, or, at least the initial stages of the bumpin' and grindin' to come.

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Mending the Vikes: 'Muddy and sometimes bloody'

by Micah Luxen

If blood and broken bones will open the door to a career in medicine, then working with the Vikes rugby team as a student trainer is the job that will throw down the welcome mat.

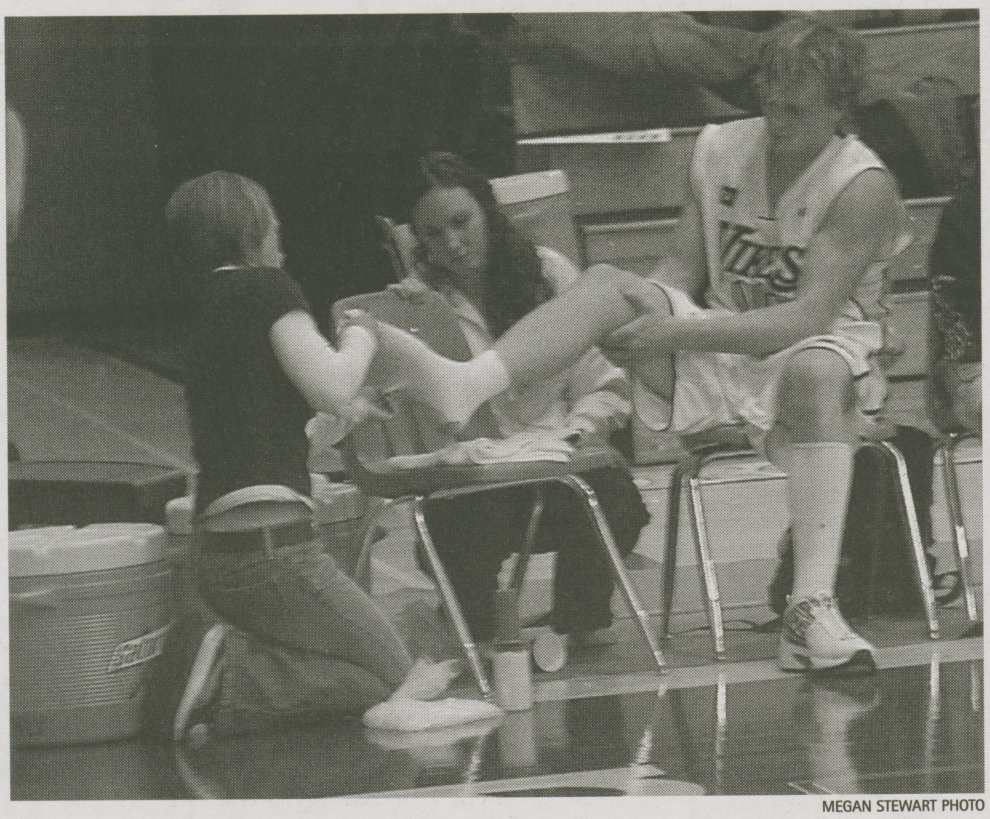
Dana Falk, a fourth-year kinesiology student at UVic, took a Work Study position with the men's varsity team because she was looking for hands-on job experience in a contact sport.

"It turns out we had so much experience in one season that the coach apologized to us: 'I'm so sorry you guys have had to deal with so many injuries,'" she said. "But you know what? You learn how to deal with things that way. The only way to learn is to get in there, get your feet wet, get your hands muddy and sometimes bloody."

For all the Vikes teams, students from the university's physical education department are working the field during practices and games to hone their skills in taping, icing and mending.

To reach the 40 hours of required training for a third-year physical education class about the care and prevention of athletic injuries, students such as Falk are partnered with varsity and community sports teams. The course relies on labs and textbooks to educate the trainers, but once introduced to the basics their hands-on experience begins.

Students are training two to three weeks from the time the course starts, said Stephen Parker, a sessional lecturer for the physical education department. "They can't treat all the injuries they see on the field, but we do try to prepare them for the major injuries they'll see. They may not be able to call an injury a certain name but they should know what to do with it and be able to recognize how severe it is."



MEGAN STEWART PHOTO

Student trainer Lindsey Spence (left) and Vikes head athletic trainer Krista Mullaly-Dobbin tend to Brandon Ellis after he rolled his ankle in a basketball game last year.

Each team works with at least two trainers, but for contact sports such as rugby the team hires its own medical staff of therapists and nurses, allowing the students to work as assistants with a professional to refer to.

Parker said the experience of watching a professional at work is as important for students as handling the injury themselves—they get to see exactly what is expected of them and how to rise to the occasion.

"When you're standing on the sideline and somebody goes down in the field, covered in blood, [it's] a pretty traumatic situation to run into," he said. "But you're not there by yourself and you're not the person who is responsible to make a decision because you're the assistant."

However, Parker goes on to say that it's rare that any student would push the limits of his or her training.

"You kind of know when [an athlete] is hurting bad enough to call an ambulance. But what I encourage is for [student trainers] to know the symptoms and make suggestions as to what's the best thing to do."

With two seasons of experience with a varsity team, Falk said that the quick decisions are one of the biggest challenges she faces as a trainer—and sometimes her advice lands her out of favour with a player or even the entire team.

"Essentially, we're responsible for the players returning to play," she said. "They go down and we have to make a really quick decision to pull them out of the game. These guys, playing for varsity teams, want to get as much play as possible, so sometimes we're not popular.

"We have to weigh the pros and cons and say, 'Yeah, you're missing the next 40 minutes of play . . . or you could be out with an injury for weeks.'"

But the players inevitably come to trust the trainers they work with. Vikes rugby player Warren Caddy says the trainers are "really valued by the players."

"When [players] get to know the trainers, they know they can trust them," he said.

Doug Tate, head coach of the Vikes men's rugby squad, agrees that trainers are a valued part of varsity teams and are an important source of support staff.

The coaches, for example, have a number of responsibilities and cannot tape several dozen players before hitting the field or court.

"We've had some student trainers that are just incredibly dedicated, giving up hundreds of hours," said Tate. "They really like training and they get to know all the [professional trainers] and are invested in how the team does.

"They probably spend more time at the field than the players do because they have to be there before and after."

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
The Victoria Riding for the Disabled Association needs volunteers to work with both children and adults with disabilities. If you enjoy horses and people, this would appeal to you. No experience necessary but volunteers must be 16 years of age or older. Training starts March 28, 2006. Program runs April 4, 2006. Contact: Volunteer Co-ordinator at 658-6272.

Make a world of difference! Volunteer overseas with Youth Challenge International on a hands-on development project for 5–12 weeks. Ready to go next month? This summer? Visit www.yci.org to find out more!

Join Kidney Foundation volunteers canvassing in a neighbourhood near where you live for 2 hours in the month of March. The monies you raise benefit Kidney Patient Services, Medical Research, and Organ Donor Awareness Programs. Contribute to the wellness and betterment of your community! To volunteer or donate, please contact March Drive Coordinator Laurie Rubin @ 995-2696 or e-mail lrubin@shaw.ca.

Gain teaching experience. Wild ARC wild animal rehabilitation centre in Victoria is seeking volunteers that can contribute to the development and delivery of education programs to local schools. Email info@wildarc.ca.

WANTED AND APPRECIATED: volunteer childcare assistants at Kiwanis House playing with children while their parents participate in life skills, parenting and pre-employment training creating a better life for themselves and their children. Contact Rachel Calder at 382-1004 or khp@youthoutreach.ca.

Seize the moment - new skills, new friends and new opportunities — Volunteer Opportunities at Swan Lake Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary—Nature Interpreter with school groups and Nature House Receptionist. For more information call 479-0211 or email: volunteer@swanlake.bc.ca.

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ON CAMPUS

THE NATIVE PLANT STUDY GROUP - MARCH MEETING
Join Rick Searle for thoughts and ideas on land stewardship, environmental ethics and education for preserving native plants in our area. Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 7 p.m. UVic, MacLaurin Bldg, Rm D-116. Non member drop-in fee: $2. For more info contact 595-5820.

Are you an Arnold Schwarzenegger Fan? I am a visual artist who is asking Arnold fans to contact me with information about themselves and their relationship with Arnold. haileyisnever@shaw.ca

ANCIENT FOREST CONFERENCE Saturday, March 18, at Vertigo in the UVic Student Union Building. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with complimentary light snacks and coffee provided. Tickets are $5.00 for students, and $10.00 for everyone else. This is THE event of the year for those concerned about the conservation of the Island's forests! Inspiring presentations and workshops featuring environmentalists, forestry workers, scientists, and politicians! For more information or to register, call 388-9292 or e-mail Cassbreea@wildernesscommitteevictoria.org

Free Grad Year Connections' workshop: How Companies Hire/Why They Fire A Human Resources Panel Tells It Like It Is. Thursday, March 16th, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m., DSB C103
See www.uvic.ca/gradyear

Free Grad Year Connections' Workshop: Take ACTion! Building Your Career With the Applied Career Transitions Program Tuesday, March 21, 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., HHB 110
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Island Montessori Family Carnival and with Silent Auction. Saturday, May 27, 2006 at Doncaster Elementary School -1525 Rowan St. Time 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Admission is free with tickets starting at twenty-five cents and up for prize venues and games. Fun children games, bouncy castle, BBQ, bake sale and so much more. For more information please phone 514-9391.

Do you have a project idea that would help your community? United Way is seeking proposals for its Youth Initiatives Grants. Visit www.unitedwayvictoria.bc.ca or call 385-6708 for details.

Victoria Queer Parents is a parenting group for members of the GLBT community in southern Vancouver Island who are considering becoming parents, are expecting, or are parenting babies and toddlers. The group meets regularly in Victoria. For more information, contact us by email: victoriaqueerparents@yahoo.ca.

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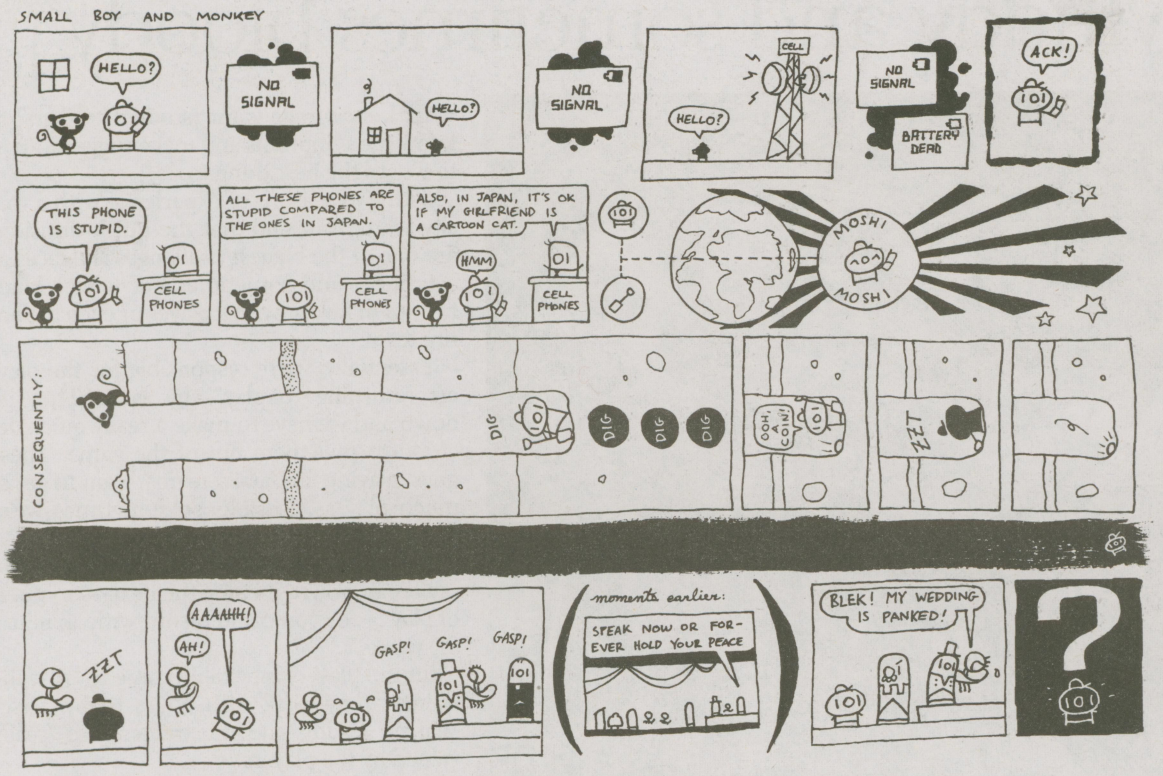
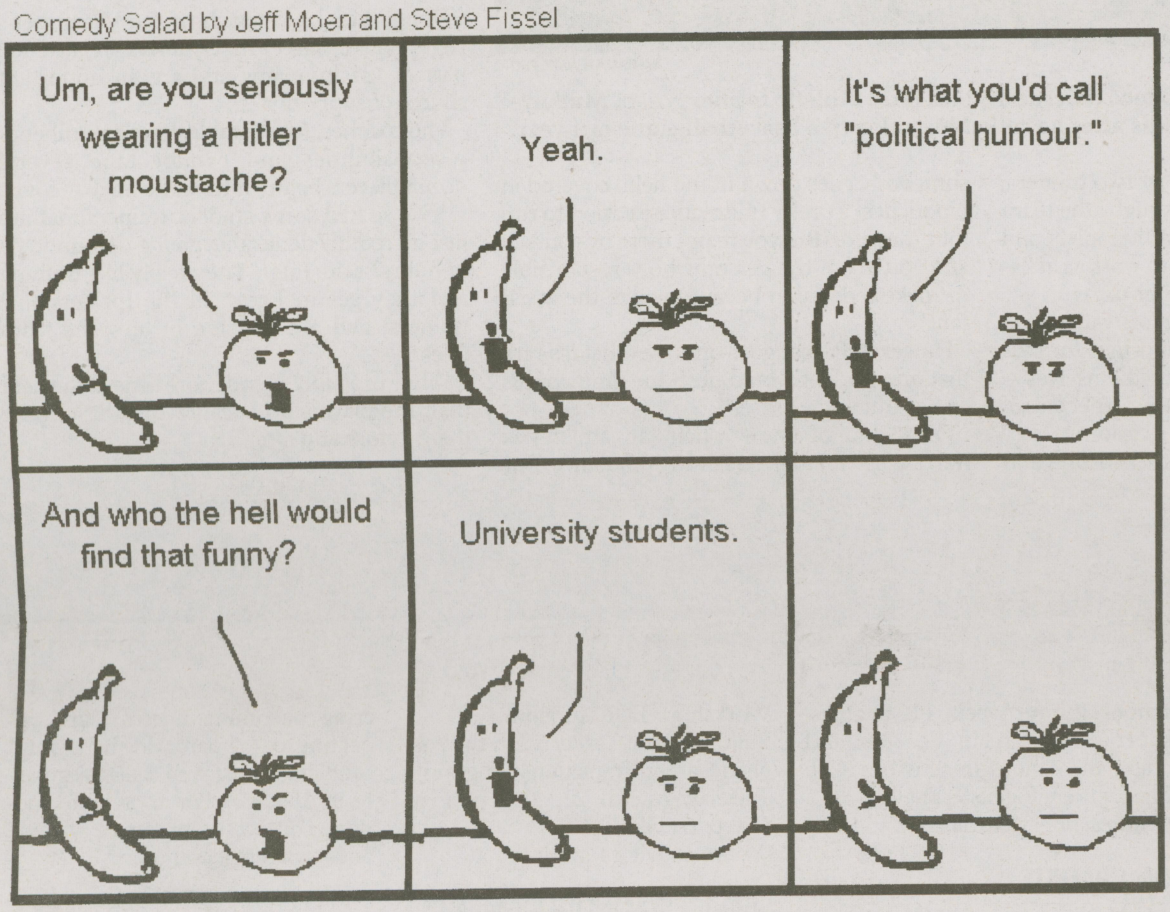
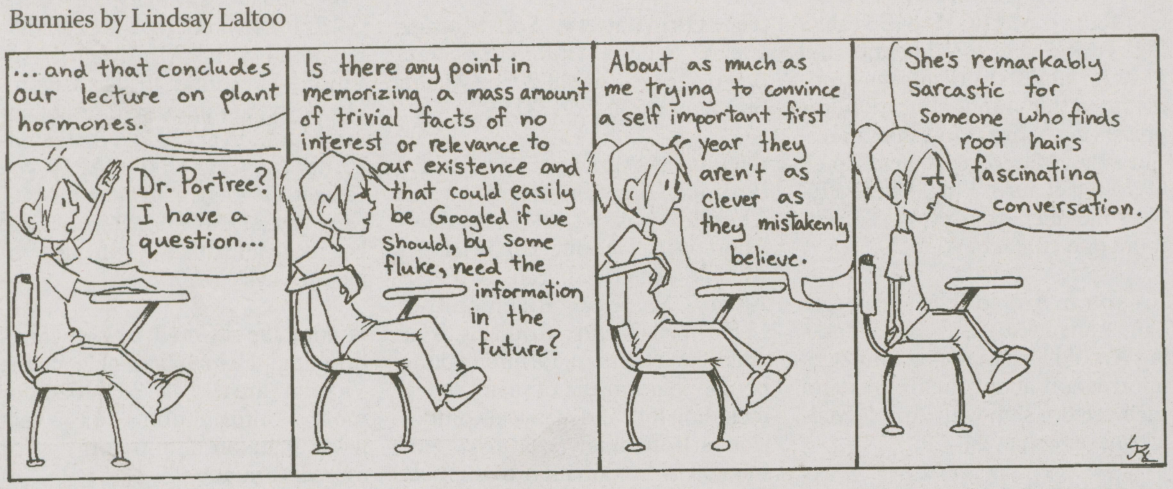


Comedy Salad by Jeff Moen and Steve Fissel

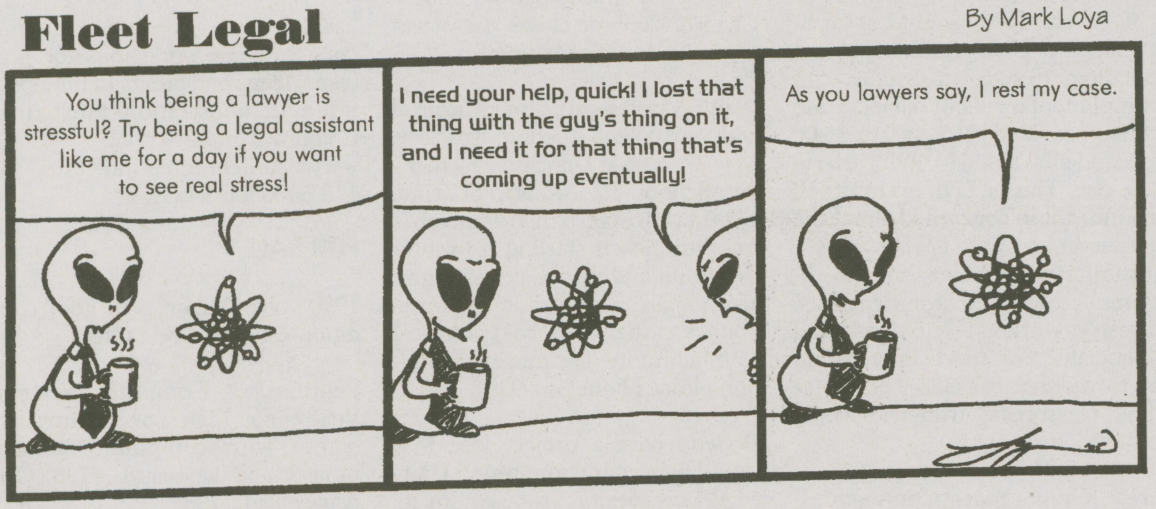


Bunnies by Lindsay Laltoo



Fleet Legal

By Mark Loya



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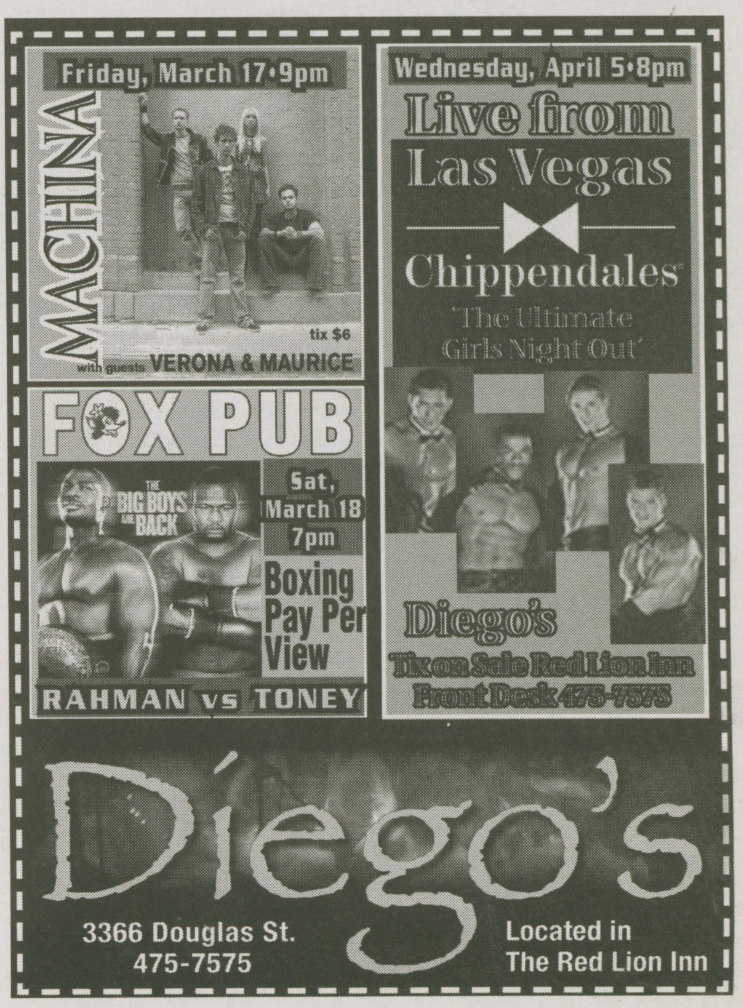
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